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Bulletin of the American Iris Society

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AIS Bulletin

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The American Iris Society

Officers & Committe Chairpeople

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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President's Message

By Clarence Mahan, Virginia

C

THIS IS MY LAST "PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE." I WISH I COULD thank all the members who have done so much to help me during the last three years, but that is not possible. I must mention a few by name because their aid to me has been so important. Rosalie Figge, whose love of AIS is beyond measure, has been my pillar of strength. Her knowledge of AIS traditions, her proclivity for straight talk, and her willingness to give me advice when I needed it have been of immeasurable value.

Roy Epperson has done so much to help me and to serve AIS by doing any job, great or small, that there are simply no words to express my gratitude to him. Whatever the job was to be done, Roy was always there to do it or to help those who were willing to do it.

Jeanne Plank has always been at hand to do whatever I asked her to do, and I have asked her to undertake many projects in addition to her service as our Second VP and Donations Secretary. Bob Plank's many contributions to AIS have been monumental. His pro bono legal work for AIS has been first-rate and entailed many long hours of research and correspondence. Although I know Bob's contributions have been given out of love for our society, I would be remiss if I did not tell you how significant his work has been.

In my first "President's Message," I set forth five goals that I hoped AIS would work toward during my tenure as president. These five goals are still worthy and with one exception we have made good progress. The



Clarence with grandsons Logan, Dallas and Ryan.

financial health of the society is markedly improved. We have made some strides in demonstrating greater empathy and support for iris hybridizers and nurseries, and significantly cut the price of color ads in the Bulletin. Keith McNames has made magnificent progress in organizing and cataloging our AIS library materials. I think we have improved communications in the society, and the expansion of our Internet resources merits special mention.

The goal where we have fallen short is building membership numbers. Every leader needs a challenge, and our next president will surely have one with membership expansion. In truth, however, membership can only be expanded locally where new members are recruited, good programs that keep people interested are undertaken, and new affiliates are organized. Take up this challenge for the love of irises. Recruit one new member this year, or give a gardener friend or relative membership in AIS as a special gift of love or appreciation.

The AIS Board at the spring meeting expressed its intention to elect Terry Aitken as our next president at the fall meeting. Terry will be a great president, and we are fortunate to have such a talented man step forward to take over the helm.

My heart was touched by the many words of condolence and unity sent to AIS and our members by iris lovers around the world after the tragic events in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. As an example, I quote from an email sent to me from Dianne Mitterer, president of the South Australian Iris Society: "On behalf of the South Australian Iris Society, Inc., may I pass on our thoughts, condolences and prayers for all Americans at this time, to all our friends within the iris world and all others. Unfortunately, words cannot convey what people are feeling here about this terrible event...." I have long known that iris devotees around the world are wonderful people. To all who called, or wrote, or remembered my country in their hearts and prayers, thank you.

Finally, I want to tell you a little story. A few irises were still in bloom when my three grandsons came to visit this past spring. I was delighted when my middle grandson, Dallas, age 7, started asking me questions about irises. One thing led to another, and the next thing you know I was showing Dallas, and his little brother, Logan, who is three years old, how to hybridize irises. They each picked Carol Lankow's border bearded **FRIDAY BLUES** as their favorite iris. It did not seem to have any viable pollen so we looked for an iris with pollen to make some crosses. After we put pollen on two different flowers, I told the boys what to expect if the crosses "took." Dallas asked many questions about how the seeds are formed, and how the seeds should be planted. I secretly thought: how bright and beautiful is the future of the world of irises. 

Editor's Message

Murphy Goes International

By Terry Aitken, Washington State

J

HAD NOT INTENDED TO MAKE A SERIES OUT OF THIS "MURPHY" thing, but this insertion is necessary. Shortly after the April *Bulletin* went in the mail, the Membership Secretary began receiving returns on some of the international mailings. It was apparent that the international address labels were garbled. Thanks to dedicated public servants around the world, many *Bulletins* got to their destinations in spite of this handicap. The problem remains that some of our international members may not know that the April *Bulletins* went astray. If you are one who did not get a copy of the April *Bulletin* please contact the Membership Secretary, Anner Whitehead, for a replacement. We will send out these replacement copies with the January, 2002, *Bulletin* mailing.

Time flies when you are having fun! (What is "fun" for some could be defined as a "stress test" for others!) As I look back on my first regular *Bulletin* of July 1996, I am amazed at the technical evolution we have experienced in just five years. We have gone from "cut and paste" for individual color negative photos to "computer-to-plate" publishing on 32 page signatures. Now we can "color correct" while the presses are running on a Saturday night. Five years ago, we never saw the color until the finished copy was in the mail.

Five years ago, articles arrived hand written or typed. Now they come via email as attachments ready to proofread. Our mail service and telephone bills have dwindled to inconsequential in the email era. We can communicate on a worldwide basis overnight. When the ultimate evil was unleashed on New York and the Pentagon on September 11th, we received immediate support and sympathy from our iris friends around the world. What a remarkable time we live in!

Assembling *Bulletins* is labor intensive for an extensive team of people. Harold Peters keeps track of advertising from many sources. Input comes from chairpeople doing annual reports, commercial growers with cultural advice, hybridizers expounding on experience and theories,

convention reporters, new AIS members with questions or ideas, awards, international news from many countries around the globe, youth views, flower arrangers, section reports — the list goes on. We have tried to include something for everyone with an iris interest. The *Bulletin* should represent the interests of our extended iris family to the best of our ability.

All of this data comes to Barbara Aitken, Bruce Filardi or Harold Peters for processing, proofing and sequencing. Desktop publishing has been handled by Scott Aitken. I would like to thank everyone for their timely contributions. We have changed publishers four times in five years. However, for the membership, the most noticeable change was going to "perfect bind", the square back *Bulletin*, which allows more flexibility in page counts and easier filing.

The Board has chosen to assign me to a new adventure in another role, and I look forward to assuming those new duties. The *Bulletin* will remain a high priority as we move on to new experiences. In the January 2002 issue, we will introduce you to your new *Bulletin* editor. ☺

Corrections to the July, 2001 Bulletin.

- On Page 3, under the Directors, the RVP Representative should read JaNiece Mull (RVP, Region 4)
- On Page 23 we printed an incomplete list of High Commendation (HC) Awards for 2000. The revised list of High Commendations is shown on page
- On Page 44, the flower arrangements shown under DESIGN CORNER should be identified, clockwise from top left, as follows:
No. 1 is "London", design by Vince Italian, photo by Jean Morris
No. 2 is "Iceland", design by Vince Italian, photo by Jean Morris
No. 3 is "Germany", exhibited by Jim Morris, photo by Jean Morris
No. 4 was exhibited by Ira Parnell, photo by Carolyn Hawkins.
No. 5 was exhibited by Joe Scott Watson, photo by Carolyn Hawkins
No. 6 is Alexa Cahalan, with her exhibit entitled "St. Louis", photo by Jean Morris

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High Commendation Awards for 2000

The High Commendation (HC) award is reserved for seedling irises viewed in gardens, under seedling number or registered name, which have not yet been introduced. The HC Award is granted to each seedling that receives five or more votes. (Note: results are not considered final until verified by registrar.)

Type	Hybridizer	Region	Iris Name or SdLng #	Votes
TB	Linda Fan	19	HM-102	7
TB	Joe Ghio	14	94-118Y2	9
TB	Wilford James	6	MJ 99-8	10
TB	Wilford James	6	MJ-97-7	6
TB	Wilford James	6	MJ-00-14	5
BB	Lynn Markham	1	93-47A	5
IB	Martha Hutcheson	1	97-6Y-9	8
IB	Marky Smith	13	DELIRIUM	6
MTB	Chandler Fulton	1	84-A-7	6
SDB	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	W2K-41	6
SDB	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	SHOUT	8
SDB	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	PRINCE OF THIEVES	5
MDB	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	W97-5-1	7
MDB	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	W97-5-4	7
MDB	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	6	W90-31	7
JI	Don Delmez	18	SBOST	5
JI	Don Delmez	18	DBWL	5
JI	Don Delmez	18	DWBVPVST	5
JI	Don Delmez	18	DSPBBST	6

Youth Views

by Jean E. Morris, Missouri

Foundation Awards Two Essay Contest Prizes

The AIS Foundation has changed the Ackerman Youth Essay Contest guidelines to include two \$100 prizes, one for youths twelve and under, and one for those thirteen through eighteen. This change places success in the contest within reach for our younger youth members, and the AIS Youth Committee applauds the Foundation for its generous decision. Thanks also to Claire Honkanen of Region 5 for administering the Essay Contest.

Joshua Winzer, age thirteen, of Augusta, Kansas, was the winner in the older group while Mary Claire Elliott, a twelve-year-old from Signal Mountain, Tennessee, won in the younger category. Congratulations to these two fine writers.

Others entering the 2001 Essay Contest were Brittany White, Region 5; Sarah Anne Elliott, Region 7; Beth Rocha, Region 15; Sylvia Chapman, Region 16; Alexa Cahalan, Amy Huhn, Christopher Rust, Stephanie Rust, Lyle Newman, Matt Knipshild and James Christensen, all of Region 18. These essays will be published in the youth newsletter, *The Iris Fan*, as space allows. Thanks to everyone who entered the contest and a special thanks to our winners Joshua and Mary Claire, whose essays follow.

My Vision for Irises of the Future

by Joshua Winzer

My vision for irises of the future is that we will have a wider range of colors and better colors. We would also have more space age, broken color and variegated foliage irises.

I also think there will be a cardinal red iris with green beards and with blue and green variegated foliage. A lot of irises will be better growers, too. In fact, they will be such good growers that they will have to be dug every year.

Hopefully a lot of irises will be resistant or immune to disease. Maybe all future introductions will be immune to diseases such



as rhizome rot and leaf spot. Some may even repel iris borers.

I would also like frost immune irises that you can grow anywhere. More rebloomers that are dependable to rebloom anywhere would be wonderful.

In truth, I don't care what iris introductions of the future look like, because we will still have the wonderful irises that we now have.

My Vision for Irises of the Future

by *Mary Claire Elliott*

I feel irises will change a great deal in the future. They will have long, soft, velvety petals. Irises will have different shapes, patterns, sizes and colors. For example, the patterns could be anywhere from plain to a striped plaid, or even polka-dotted. The colors could be tie-dyed, neon green, yellow, pink or vivid red. Some of the shapes could be cubed, spherized, triangular, rectangular, or the basic shape an iris is now. In the future, one will surely find many sizes, with some fitting in the palm of your hand and others much larger.



In the future, one will need a special sheet of directions for a growing schedule. It will tell when to plant the seeds and when to expect the irises to bloom. Usually the seeds would be planted on June 1st. This will give it a week to grow. In the second week one should have a beautiful iris bloom.

Irises will be able to grow in many unusual places. Most of all they will grow in the limbs of trees such as beeches, dogwoods, oaks, maples and palm trees. However, many irises will still grow in traditional gardens, to keep some of the past alive.

These irises will also be much healthier than those of the past. They will have brilliant colors. The blooms will last longer. The plant will be dormant for a shorter period of time in the winter. There, too, will be more pollen to hybridize different irises.

These changes and improvements will come about in many different ways. For example, we will have more people working and discovering new things about the iris. The sun will tamper with the color and size of the plant by giving it more energy for photosynthesis. We will incubate them in a greenhouse that is polluted causing the shape and pattern to change. Finally, more birds, bees and other pollinators will be available.

In the future, more people will be working on how to change the iris even more. Most people who are going to be working with irises are

the ones who really want to change them and learn new things about them. Every state will have an iris garden in their capital city and many people will work to water and fertilize them. Everyone would have something to do with irises, whether it is working to discover new things, working in a community garden, or even in your own garden.

Clarke Cosgrove Nominations Needed

Every RVP, Regional Youth Chairman and local Youth Advisor should consider nominating active youth members for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. But holding a title is not a requirement — any AIS member may nominate any AIS youth member. Those youths who participate in some (not necessarily all) of the following ways, should be considered for nomination, so use the following list as a guide.

- Grows a fine iris garden
- Actively hybridizes irises
- Writes for an iris publication
- Helps an iris organization through a committee or activity
- Visits local iris gardens at bloomtime
- Attends regional/national tours
- Is studying to be an AIS Judge
- Promotes irises and/or the AIS to others
- Signs up new AIS members
- Competes enthusiastically at shows
- Experiments with irises
- Shows an interest in various iris classes and sizes
- Demonstrates leadership skills

Complete your nomination by adding some personal attributes of the youth, and mail to Jean E. Morris, 682 Huntley Heights Dr., Ballwin, MO 63021 by January 31, 2002. You may e-mail your nomination <morrisje1@aol.com> but do not send as an attachment. Try to limit your nomination to two pages.

There are dozens of active AIS youth members, so please do your part and nominate one or two. A youth may be nominated by more than one person, so add your support to that of others.

The Youth Committee will code nominations to conceal identities and send them to a carefully selected panel of Judges. The winner will receive a trophy and a cash prize that will be presented at the AIS Convention in Memphis, Tennessee. Please encourage a deserving youth member by writing a nomination today. 

International News

by George & Margaret Sutton, California, and Bruce Filardi, Oregon

Results of the Russian TB Competition

from Sergey Loktev:

- 1st LENTEN PRAYER (Schreiner '98)
- 2nd HALO IN PEACH (Niswonger '98)
- 3rd OURAGAN (Cayeux '96)
- 4th BUISSON DE ROSES (Cayeux '98)
- 5th WORLD PREMIER (Schreiner '98)
- 6th BRAZILIAN HOLIDAY (Schreiner '97)

Our sincere congratulations to the hybridizers of these fine irises!

German Popularity Poll - Keppel Does It Again!

from Rainer Zeh, Germany

Again in 2000, Keith Keppel scored a one-two punch in the German Popularity Poll. His LOCAL COLOR was voted the most popular iris in Germany for the second year in a row. Second place this year went to his WISHFUL THINKING, which replaced last year's runner-up FANCY WOMAN.

The Top Ten were as follows: 1. LOCAL COLOR (Keppel '96); 2. WISHFUL THINKING (Keppel '96); 3. DUSKY CHALLENGER (Schreiner '86); 4. YES (Blyth '96); 5. MOUNTAIN MAJESTY (Ghio '95); 6. HELLO DARKNESS (Schreiner '92); 7. DIABOLIQUE (Schreiner '97); 8. AURA LIGHT (Blyth '96/97); 9. SWINGTOWN (Schreiner '96); 10. FANCY WOMAN (Keppel '95).

Scent in Irises (excerpt)

from Sylvain Ruaud, France

As far as I know, the 2000 Cayeux catalogue presented something new to the iris world. The Cayeux firm hired a well-known French "nose" to identify the scents of the irises in their catalogue, adding a further facet to the descriptions. Many catalogues mention whether or not an iris has a scent, but the Cayeux initiative was to identify the specific scent of each iris.

The parfumier Jean Claude Elléna found that the most common scents were ones that he called "zart blumig," which translates loosely as "mildly flowery" (49% of the irises listed) and orange blossom (almost

15%). He also identified scents as varied as lily, vanilla, cake, mandarin, carnation, chocolate, lily of the valley, marzipan, lemon tart, grapefruit, peach, and tulip.

2002 Convention of the Middle European Iris Society

from Milan Blazek, Czech Republic

General Information:

The 2001 MEIS Convention, held in early June in Mikolow, Poland, was a tremendous success. As a result, the members of MEIS are eagerly anticipating and planning for the 2002 Convention, which will take place in the Czech Republic. The number of species iris and hybrids growing in this country exceeds 2000; bearded irises make up the majority, but all groups of the genus are well represented in our gardens. The Convention will take place on May 25th and 26th, 2002.

Two botanic gardens with significant iris collections – Brno and Pruhonice - are included on the program, as well as private gardens of Czech members of the Society. Brno will be the center of the Convention.

The collections in both botanic gardens include a particularly rich selection of TB cultivars from all parts of the world. In addition, guest plantings will include numerous seedlings and registered cultivars hybridized by MEIS members, and Brno will showcase a planting of TB cultivars sent there for a competition.

We believe that the climatic differences in the various host gardens will provide visitors with the opportunity to see IB's in bloom in addition to the TB's, and there may even be some late SDB's. At Pruhonice, guests will be able to see rare collected forms of true *I. germanica* and its tetraploid relatives, as well as an important collection of rare historic cultivars.

Participants:

Besides the participants from the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia, which form the main national groups of the Society, we also expect individuals from Russia and the Ukraine. Germany should also be very well represented at the 2002 Convention - our friends from the German Perennial Plant Society are preparing a bus tour for this event.

Invitation:

Friends from all parts of the world are welcome here. For those who could visit us before or after the Convention, the doors of the gardens

are open at any time. E-mail contact for Pruhonice (and also for MEIS) is **Milan Blazek** <blazek@ibot.cas.cz>; Brno contact is **Marketa Nohelova** <alpines@mendelu.cz> .

Update on other International Conventions:

British Iris Society Convention 2002: The dates for this convention will be May 24-27, 2002. Information concerning this convention can be found in the July *AIS Bulletin* in the International News. Contact persons are **Suz Winspear**, 63 Park Avenue, Barbourne, Worcester, WR3 7AJ or **Cy Bartlett**, Old Mill House, Shurton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1QG, England.

Russian Iris Society Convention 2002: The dates for this convention will be June 14-16, 2002. Information concerning this convention can be found in the July *AIS Bulletin* in the International News. Contact person is **Sergey Loktev**, P.O. Box 54, Moscow 129226, Russia; his email address is <s.smirnov@mtu-net.ru>.

From the South Australian Iris Society newsletter: The 2001 Iris Convention will be held in Yarrawonga, Victoria, October 24-29. The 2002 Iris Convention will be held in Western Australia, October 20-26.

From the West Australian Iris Society Bulletin: The Pacific Flora 2004 Expo is being planned at Hamamatsu, Japan, running for six months. Its sister city in the USA, Rochester, NY, is planning a complementary Friendship Garden... Noted Australian hybridizer Heather Pryor was approached to design special plantings of LA irises in both cities... The display (in Rochester) will be in the form of a spiral, with the original species in the center, then a succession of important cultivars in order of introduction, spiraling outwards.

From the New Zealand Iris Society Anniversary Issue, September, 2000:

[Editor's Note: In this issue, we present the last section of the report on the sections of the New Zealand Iris Society, in honor of their 50th Anniversary.]

South Island Groups

Marlborough has a beautiful, unique landscape, blessed with the highest sunshine hours in New Zealand. The province is ringed with

impressive mountains. Mount Tapuae-o-Uenuku in the Kaikoura range is the highest mountain outside the Southern Alps. Hot, dry summers and cold winters ensure that Marlborough is perfect for viticulture and also for growing iris. Soils are generally sandy riverbed soils with good drainage. The group's history is indeed brief with its inaugural meeting held only in February of 1999. All types of iris grow well in Marlborough because of the sunshine, soil and drainage.

Christchurch is known as "The Garden City" of New Zealand. It is built on a swamp, drained now of course. The plains are alluvial. Winters are cold, frosty and wet. *I. unguicularis* flowers from April to September. *I. reticulata* can hardly wait for the winter to end. *I. bucharica* flowers early and seems to be the easiest of the juno irises. All the bearded iris from tiny to tall, *I. sibirica* and its hybrids and cultivars, *I. setosa*, *versicolor* and other species make a splendid show, followed by *I. ensata* and its beautiful hybrids, and then the spurias. The Christchurch Group is planning the NZIS convention in November 2003.

Harbour Basin is the newest group of the New Zealand Iris Society. Their first meeting was held in September of 1999. They meet regularly to view gardens, so they can discuss and learn to recognize different types of irises. Lyttelton Harbour is the site of an extinct volcano on Banks Peninsula east of Christchurch City. The little bays around the Harbour have a mild, coastal climate.

South Canterbury: Stony plains, rolling downs, high country tussocks and rich fertile soils around Timaru, Waimate and parts of Oamaru make up a wonderful balance where all types of iris thrive. On August 2, 1962, seven gardeners from South Canterbury held the first meeting. South Canterbury hosted National Conventions in Timaru in 1976 and 1986, and in Oamaru in 1998.

Central Otago: This is an old land which has been above sea level longer than the rest of New Zealand. The first runholders (farmers) found continuous cover of luxuriant tussock grassland. Sheep numbers increased rapidly and then the number of rabbits exploded. The plant cover of the land was lost, especially on the drier basins and on the low altitude sunny faces. Recovery was inhibited by low rainfall and severe winters. Central Otago is the driest, the coldest, and the hottest area of New Zealand. The average annual rainfall is .14 inches. Temperatures range from an average low of about 28° F. in winter to about 75-85° F. in summer. Irises were first grown here by early settlers. A white bearded (*I. albicans*) survived around early huts and on ash heaps until recently. Bearded irises do well here, although they seldom rebloom.

Otago: Established in 1963, the Otago Group hosted Conventions in 1971, 1982 and 1986. Bearded iris grew in the Centennial Iris Garden, and nearby there were water-loving iris: Siberians, *I. gracilipes*, and various Pacific Coast species.

Southland: The Southland Group's public iris planting is situated in Queens Park with SDBs, Siberians, border bearded, MTBs and TBs with a group of species iris. Southland has cold winters and warm summers enabling a wide range of irises to grow well including bearded iris, spurias, Siberians, Japanese, other species, and bulbous iris. ☺

Iris Books

For Those Long Winter Nights

In addition to the excellent iris books offered through the AIS Storefront, the following books are available from our iris Sections and Cooperating Societies:

The Japanese Iris by Dr. Currier McEwen. \$24.95, payable to Society for Japanese Iris (SJI). Write to: John Coble, 9823 East Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053

The Louisiana Book by The Society for Louisiana Iris. \$30.00, payable to S.L.I. Write to: Elaine Larcade-Bourque, 514 Garenne Rd., Lafayette, LA 70508



Innerst Garden
Photo: Aitken



Bury Garden

Photo: Aitken



Innerst Garden
Photo: Aitken



Bury Garden
Photo: Aitken

AIS Awards

2001

*Number of votes listed first

Dykes Memorial

Medal

85 YAQUINA BLUE
(Schreiner)

Runners Up:

69 MESMERIZER
(M. Byers)
54 CELEBRATION SONG
(Schreiner)

John C. Wister Medal (TB)

75 FANCY WOMAN
(K. Keppel)
54 POND LILY (E. Jones)
51 SPIRIT WORLD
(K. Keppel)

Runners Up:

49 GYPSY ROMANCE
(Schreiner)
49 JURASSIC PARK
(L. Lauer)
48 TIGER HONEY
(B. Kasperek)

Knowlton Medal (BB)

127 CRANAPPLE (T. Aitken)

Runners Up:

96 BABOON BOTTOM
(B. Kasperek)
66 TINK (J. Durrance)

Hans and Jacob Sass Medal (IB)

146 MAUI GOLD (T. Aitken)

Runners Up:

84 MAGIC BUBBLES
(A. & D. Willott)
77 BOLD STROKE
(E. Jones)

Williamson-White Medal (MTB)

235 BANGLES (L. Miller)

Runners Up:

67 ROBIN GOODFELLOW
(C. Mahan)
60 STEFFIE (K. Fisher)

Cook-Douglas Medal (SDB)

61 STARBABY (M. Smith)

Runners Up:

46 LITTLE BLUE-EYES
(J. Weiler)
43 ICE AND INDIGO
(A. & D. Willott)

Caparne-Welch Medal (MDB)

71 HEY THERE
(Carol Lankow)

Runners Up:

46 SCRUPLES (L. Miller)
43 PINK BLINK (T. Aitken)

**Clarence G. White
Medal (AR & AB)**

31 DESERT FURY
(H. Shockey)

Runners Up:

28 LANCER
(H. Shockey)
17 JONNYE'S MAGIC
(L. Rich)
17 TURKISH HERALD
(H. Shockey)

**William Mohr Medal
(AB)**

74 KALIFA'S HORN
(R. Annand)

Runners Up:

17 ONCO G PLUS
(C. Boswell)
13 ALADDIN'S TREASURE
(D. Pinegar)

**Founders of SIGMA
Medal (SPEC)**

38 BETWEEN THE LINES
(M. Schafer & J. Sacks)

Runners Up:

29 CANDYSTRIPER
(B. Warburton)
23 BUTTERFLY MODE
(L. Reid)

**Randolph-Perry
Medal (SPEC-X)**

74 HOLDEN'S CHILD
(S. Tiffney)

Runners Up:

21 DIMITY BUTTERFLY
(L. Reid)

19 ASIAN ALLIANCE
(J. Witt)

**Sydney B. Mitchell
Medal (CA)**

15 JEAN ERICKSON
(C. Rigby)

Runners Up:

11 SEA GAL (L. Belardi)
11 WESTERN BLUEBIRD
(J. Weiler)

**Mary Swords
DeBaillon Medal (LA)**

55 PRALINE FESTIVAL
(D. Haymon)

Runners Up:

48 EXTRAORDINAIRE
(M. Dunn)
37 GEISHA EYES (C. Arny)

**Morgan-Wood Medal
(SIB)**

157 STRAWBERRY FAIR
(R. Hollingworth)

Runners Up:

103 LAKE KEUKA
(D. Borglum)
53 HARPSWELL VELVET
(C. McEwen)

Eric Nies Medal (SPU)

65 MISSOURI SPRINGS
(D. Niswonger)

Runners Up:

49 SONORAN SUNSET
(F. Wickenkamp)
36 ZULU CHIEF (C. Jenkins)

Payne Medal (JI)

45 PICOTEE PRINCESS
(L. Reid)

Runners Up:

27 ELECTRIC GLOW
(T. Aitken)
25 DIOMEDES (S. Innerst)

Walther Cup

(Most HM votes in any category)

143 STARWOMAN (IB)
(M. Smith)

Runners Up:

136 STARSHIP
ENTERPRISE (Schreiner)
123 PENNY LANE (L. Lauer)
103 UNCLE CHARLIE
(D. Spoon)

Award of Merit (AM)**Tall Bearded:**

138 DIABOLIQUE (Schreiner)
118 CROWNED HEADS
(K. Keppel)
109 OWYHEE DESERT
(L. Pinkston)
87 BOYENSBERRY
BUTTERCUP (L. Lauer)
76 POEM OF ECSTASY
(B. Hager)
75 GOOD VIBRATIONS
(Schreiner)
75 VALENTINE'S DAY
(V. Wood)
69 BRAGGADOCIO
(K. Keppel)
67 MARIPOSA SKIES
(R. Tasco)
67 SEAKIST (Schreiner)

65 KEVIN'S THEME
(F. Kerr)
64 LITTLE JOHN (D. Spoon)
57 COLOR ME BLUE
(Schreiner)
54 BRAZILIAN HOLIDAY
(Schreiner)
52 NORA EILEEN
(G. Richardson)
51 AMERICAN CLASSIC
(Schreiner)
49 KENTUCKY WOMAN
(Schreiner)
48 CHAMPAGNE FROST
(K. Keppel)
48 IT'S MAGIC (W. Maryott)
47 BUGLES AND HORNS
(G. Sutton)

Runners Up:

46 ALABASTER UNICORN
(G. Sutton)
46 HUCKLEBERRY
FUDGE (J. Gibson)

Border Bearded:

78 APRICOT TOPPING
(P. Black)
77 CALICO KITTEN
(C. Tompkins)

Runners Up:

50 TOMMYKNOCKER
(R. Lyons)
38 FRIDAY BLUES
(Carol Lankow)

Intermediate Bearded:

74 BOTTLED SUNSHINE
(H. Nichols)
64 COUNTRY DANCE
(E. Jones)

Runners Up:

61 GNU RAYZ (B. Kasperek)
 58 SEASON TICKET
 (J. Gatty)

Miniature Tall Bearded:

139 MINI WABASH
 (R. Probst)
 114 MERIT (K. Fisher)

Runners Up:

92 BAUBLES AND BEADS
 (L. Miller)
 73 FESTIVE GLOW
 (A. & D. Willott)

Standard Dwarf Bearded:

78 DOT COM (B. Jones)
 39 REBUS (J. Gatty)
 37 HARLEM NOCTURNE
 (A. & D. Willott)
 36 BLACKBERRY JAM
 (A. & D. Willott)
 36 RINGER (K. Keppel)
 36 SNUGGLEBUG (Schreiner)
 36 WEBMASTER
 (K. Keppel)

Runners Up:

34 PEACH COOLER
 (T. Aitken)
 33 FIRESTARTER
 (A. & D. Willott)
 33 HOODLUM (K. Keppel)

Miniature Dwarf Bearded

61 INKY ELF
 (A. & D. Willott)
 49 LITTLE DRUMMER
 BOY (A. & D. Willott)

Runners Up:

48 BLINK (L. Miller)

47 HOT BUTTONS

(T. Aitken)

Arilbred

35 DESERT JUBILEE
 (L. Flanagan)
 31 DESERT
 CELEBRATION (L.
 Flanagan)

Runner Up:

21 DESERT JOY (L. Flanagan)

Aril and Arilbred

21 DESERT ATTIRE
 (H. Shockey)
 14 MOONLIGHT
 MADNESS (S.
 McAllister)

Runners Up:

13 ALI KHAN (H. Shockey)
 13 WHITE CHOCOLATE
 (S. McAllister)

Species

35 FADED JEANS (H. Bishop)
 32 CHINA WEST LAKE
 (J. Waddick)

Runner Up:

30 KING CLOVIS (E. & B.
 Tankesley-Clarke)

Inter-Species

31 MAUVE SNOWTOP
 (L. Reid)
 24 PACIFIC RED VELVET
 (L. Reid)

Californicae

18 RASPBERRY DAZZLER
 (V. Wood)

11 SEA ADMIRAL (V. Wood)

Runners Up:

9 BLUE MOMENT

(D. Meek)

6 EL NINO (J. Ghio)

6 SAN LORENZO
VALLEY (J. Ghio)

6 WISHING (J. Ghio)

Louisiana

47 PROFESSOR FRITCHIE

(J. Mertzweiller)

40 CAJUN SUNSET

(M. Granger)

25 KENTUCKY CAJUN

(S. Norris)

*Runners Up:*23 COTTON PLANTATION
(M. Dunn)21 ACADIANA SUNSET
(R. Goula)**Siberian**72 CARELESS SALLY
(M. Schafer & J. Sacks)65 TRIM THE VELVET
(M. Schafer & J. Sacks)*Runners Up:*56 CARMEN JEANNE
(C. Helsley)50 BAND OF ANGELS
(R. Hollingworth)**Spuria**60 MISSOURI SUNSET
(D. Niswonger)35 MIDNIGHT RIVAL
(L. Johnsen)*Runners Up:*

32 CLARA ELLEN

(C. Jenkins)

32 MISSOURI LAKES

(D. Niswonger)

Japanese

29 LION KING

(R. Bauer & J. Coble)

25 PLEASANT

EARLYBIRD (C. Harris)

*Runners Up:*20 DIRIGO DEBUTANTE
(J. White)20 GEISHA DOLL
(E. Matheny)20 ROSEWATER
(R. Bauer & J. Coble)**Honorable Mention****Tall Bearded**

136 STARSHIP

ENTERPRISE (Schreiner)

123 PENNY LANE (L. Lauer)

103 UNCLE CHARLIE
(D. Spoon)

88 SEA POWER (K. Keppel)

74 TANGLED WEB
(K. Keppel)

71 ENNOBLE (J. Ghio)

70 MERLOT (Schreiner)

62 CLASSIC SUEDE
(L. Lauer)62 LENTEN PRAYER
(Schreiner)61 BRAZENBERRY
(S. Innerst)59 WILD WINGS
(K. Keppel)

56 PUCCINI (J. Ghio)

55 ASCII ART (W. Moores)

55 SILK BROCADE
(K. Keppel)

53	LUXOR GOLD (Schreiner)	(B. Kasperek)
52	PO NO MO (T. Burseen)	
50	ARCTIC AGE (Schreiner)	36 HER PINKNESS
49	BLUE JAY WAY (L. Lauer)	(O. Schick)
48	DEVIL'S LAKE (Schreiner)	36 QUITE THE REVERSE
48	SUSPICION (K. Keppel)	(W. Maryott)
48	VIBRANT (P. Black)	35 CHINA MOON (Schreiner)
47	BLUE SKIRT WALTZ (Schreiner)	35 CONFEDERATE ROYALTY (W. Moores)
45	MARIPOSA AUTUMN (R. Tasco)	35 FLIGHT COMMANDER (G. Sutton)
44	CORPS DE BALLET (B. Hager)	35 KEIKO'S WORLD (L. Johnson)
43	SKY AND SUN (D. Spoon)	34 LEADING LIGHT (G. Shoop)
42	BIG SQUEEZE (P. Black)	34 SNOWED IN (J. Ghio)
42	PINBALL WIZARD (L. Lauer)	34 SOUL SISTER (R. Dunn)
41	DREAMWALKER (O. Schick)	33 HABIT (P. Black)
41	SERENGETI SPAGHETTI (B. Kasperek)	33 IDIDIT (O. Schick)
40	CANDY APPLE CLASSIC (W. Maryott)	33 KITTY DYER (P. Dyer)
39	HIGH STAKES (Schreiner)	33 RARE QUALITY (Schreiner)
39	LOTUS LAND (K. Keppel)	33 RECURRING DELIGHT (L. Lauer)
38	BARBARA MY LOVE (W. Maryott)	33 VIRGINIA RUDKIN (J. McWhirter)
38	BLACK BUTTE (Schreiner)	32 LOIS PARRISH (P. Black)
38	DARK PASSION (Schreiner)	32 MANDELA (J. Ghio)
37	LAUGH LINES (J. Ghio)	32 VIOLET SHIMMER (W. Moores)
37	PHEASANT FEATHERS (L. Johnson)	31 BUFFER ZONE (S. Innerst)
37	WINNING TICKET (L. Miller)	31 DREAM EXPRESS (R. Tasco)
36	CANARY DELIGHT (J. Roberts)	31 KIWI CHEESECAKE (D. Niswonger)
36	EXCLUSIVITY (S. Innerst)	31 SCENE STEALER (H. Nichols)
36	GRAPE SNAKEZ	30 KELLY LYNNE (C. Fan)
		30 WIDDERSHINS (M. Roberts)
		29 HOOKEM HORNS (G. Sutton)

29 JUST FOR SOPHIE (R. Ernst) (Carol Lankow)
 29 LENA BAKER (F. Kerr)
 29 MALLORY KAY (L. Johnson)
 29 MOTHER MARSHMALLOW (J. McWhirter)
 28 AGAIN AND AGAIN (S. Innnerst)
 28 ALIEN MIST (C. Bartlett)
 28 CANTRELL'S RAIDERS (J. Hedgecock)
 28 EROTIC TOUCH (S. Innerst)
 28 IDOL (J. Ghio)
 27 BOUDOIR (J. Ghio)
 27 IDITAROD (L. Johnson)
 27 LONELY HEARTS (K. Keppel)
 27 ZATON (P. Dyer)

Runners Up:

26 ENGAGING (J. Ghio)
 26 HONEY SCOOP (G. Sutton)
 26 ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL (Schreiner)

Border Bearded

76 CHRISTIANA BAKER (F. Kerr)
 61 ANACONDA LOVE (B. Kasperek)
 56 TEAPOT TEMPEST (L. Markham)
 42 CLASSIC NAVY (Carol Lankow)
 40 BOISTEROUS (P. Black)
 39 PEACH PARASOL (D. Spoon)

Runners Up:

37 COTTON CHARMER

35 CANADIAN BORDER (C. Chapman)
Intermediate Bearded
 143 STARWOMAN (M. Smith)
 87 THIS AND THAT (P. Black)
 74 BLACKCURRANT (M. Smith)
 68 MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (L. Baumunk)
 55 CHAMPAGNE ENCORE (T. Aitken)
 44 SINISTER DESIRE (P. Black)
 41 PERFUME SHOP (K. Keppel)

Runners Up:

39 GODDESS OF PINK (D. Niswonger)
 38 MOONGLADE (K. Keppel)

Miniature Tall Bearded

89 ACE (L. Miller)
 49 YELLOW FLIRT (K. Fisher)
 44 CHELSEA TURNER (J. Norrick)

Runners Up:

42 BLUE CHIP STOCK (P. Black)
 42 PROVEN STOCK (K. Fisher)

Standard Dwarf Bearded

54 MARKSMAN (M. Smith)
 52 MUSIC (K. Keppel)
 43 SNICKERS (K. Keppel)
 43 STAR OF AFRICA (P. Dyer)

40 BEE MUSED (P. Black)
 40 CHEROKEE SUNRISE (B. Jones)
 39 NEAR MYTH (T. Aitken)
 38 CHOCOLATE SWIRL (R. Tasco)
 38 RADIOACTIVE (P. Dyer)
 37 BLUE FOR SUE (A. & D. Willott)
 36 WILDCAT PAJAMAS (D. Niswonger)
 32 FAIRY RING (D. Meek)

Runners Up:

30 BUTTER RINGS (T. Aitken)
 30 GLEBE BROOK (J. Burton)
 30 WIZARD'S RETURN (R. Tasco)

Miniature Dwarf Bearded

37 AFRICAN WINE (B. Kasperek)
 31 TICKLE ME (C. Chapman)
 25 SELF EVIDENT (B. Hager)
 25 SPARKLETT'S (P. Black)

Runners Up:

24 WIGGLE (P. Black)
 23 TRIFLE (B. Hager)

Aril and Arilbred

1/2 or more Aril
 15 DESERT MAJESTY (L. Flanagan)
 13 CONCERTO GROSSO (H. Mathes)
 13 SYRIAN ROSE (G.F. Wilson)

Runners Up:

10 JEHOSAPHAT'S

RELIANCE (P. McGrath)
 10 POINT WELL TAKEN (S. McAllister)

Arilbred

1/4 to less than 1/2 Aril
 11 DESERT SURPRISE (L. Flanagan)

Runner Up:

9 MOHRIC BUTTERFLY (S. McAllister)

Species

26 JOHN WOOD (E. Lineberger)
 26 POWDER BLUE GIANT (S. Norris)

Runners Up:

22 SYLVANSHINE (C. Mahan)
 15 VERSICLE (M. Schafer & J. Sacks)

Inter-Species

42 PIXIE WON (Jill Copeland)

Runners Up:

19 SIBTOSA PRINCESS (T. Tamberg)
 11 CAST ASHORE (C. Chapman)

Californicae

11 BIG SMILE (J. Ghio)
 8 TIKI (J. Ghio)
 6 BABY BLANKET (J. Ghio)
 5 DEEP MAGIC (L. Belardi)
 5 JACKS ARE WILD (J. Ghio)
 5 OPULENCE (E. Bessette)
 5 SILVER PLATE (J. Ghio)

5 UMUNHUM (J. Ghio)
 5 VELVET LADY
 (N. Barnard)

Runners Up:

4 DEAD RINGER (J. Ghio)
 4 ULTIMATE SUNTAN
 (J. Ghio)
 4 WITH THIS RING
 (J. Ghio)

Louisiana

33 ATCHAFALAYA
 (F. Campbell)
 29 CREOLE RHAPSODY
 (J. Mertzweiller)
 23 OVERNIGHT SUCCESS
 (J. Ghio)
 21 BAYOU TIGER (K. Strawn)
 21 FIDDLE-DEE-DEE
 (F. Campbell)
 20 BEALE STREET
 (K. Vaughn)
 20 NAVAJO CORAL
 (D. Shepard)
 20 JOYFUL CHARM
 (R. Morgan)

Runners Up:

19 PEACHES IN WINE
 (H. Pryor)
 19 VELVET MEMORY
 (R. Morgan)

Siberian

74 SOMEBODY LOVES ME
 (R. Hollingworth)
 69 SHIPS ARE SAILING
 (M. Schafer & J. Sacks)
 43 NEAT TRICK (J. White)
 39 HARPSWELL SNOW
 (C. McEwen)

38 AT THE BALLET
 (C. Helsley)
 38 COUNTESS CATHLEEN
 (M. Schafer & J. Sacks)

Runners Up:

35 FLUTTER BY
 BUTTERFLY (R.
 Hollingworth)
 35 LADY WALPOLE
 (M. Schafer & J. Sacks)

Spuria

33 MISSOURI IRON ORE
 (D. Niswonger)
 27 MISSOURI AUTUMN
 (D. Niswonger)
 19 ELFIN SUNSHINE
 (C. Jenkins)
 16 PEE WEE PETE
 (D. Shepard)
 16 MEGAGOLD (C. Jenkins)

Runners Up:

15 RIVULETS OF PINK
 (D. Niswonger)
 15 SONORAN CARNIVAL
 (F. Wickenkamp)

Japanese

22 KOSHUI NO ASA
 (H. Shimizu)
 21 PLEASANT
 STARBURST (C. Harris)

Runners Up:

20 PLEASANT SANDMAN
 (C. Harris)
 19 TROPICAL STORM
 (R. Bauer & J. Coble)

AIS Convention 2001

York Garden Reviews

The Bury Garden

by Gerry Snyder, California

The lovely garden of Jane and Peter Bury lies along a country road, nestled in a narrow, gently sloping valley. A row of pine trees separates the garden from the road.

The first thing to hit the eye after passing the welcoming iris banner was a striking bed of azaleas, thriving in a way unimaginable to someone from a desert environment.

It was really a shame that our visit to the garden was well before peak TB bloom, but there was still plenty to see. As might be expected under those conditions, several IB's were putting on a show. Marky Smith's intros were well represented here, as at several other gardens. I have always liked plicata STARWOMAN ('98), which was growing next to yellow MING (also '98). But my favorite of hers was DELIRIUM, a 2001 introduction. This aptly named iris has purple falls with a grayed orange rim and standards, and a bright orange beard.

Another very different IB was Paul Black's THIS AND THAT ('98). The visual effect was that of a dark purple plicata over an orchid background (almost a lighter tone of the same color as the banding), a coloration I was not familiar with. Two IB's from Evelyn Jones also looked very good: DISCOVERED GOLD ('96) is worthy of its name, and COUNTRY DANCE ('97) is a lovely pink blend.

Among the TB's in bloom, Hooker Nichols' seedling 9718A was putting on one of the best shows. This nicely ruffled orchid blend is darker at the center of the falls, fading to almost white near the edges. The luminata class was represented by Joe Ghio's ruffled '99 introduction STAGE LIGHTS, with an unusual orange flush on the shoulders. Sterling Innerst's AGGRESSIVELY FORWARD ('95) was impressive, with yellow standards, and dark purple plicata band over white ground on the falls.

Lynda Miller's '99 introduction WINNING TICKET is a more normal bi-plicata, with pinkish standards and a medium purple band on

the falls. RAQUELLE ANN (Darlene Pinegar '98) looked very cheerful with bright yellow standards, and falls that are orchid with deeper veining and a narrow yellow band around the edge. Tom Burseen's OZONE ALERT ('97) had earthy coloration somewhat reminiscent of THORNBIRD, with brick beards. Don Spoon's RAFA ('97) was in a gorgeous clump that was just starting to bloom.

A recently added feature of the Bury garden is the bog area, which seems to be an ideal bed for the Japanese and Louisiana iris planted there. Their thriving lemon tree was further evidence of the Burys' gardening skill. I wish I had been able to see the garden a week or so later, when many more TB's would have been in bloom, but being there even pre-peak was a pleasure.

Draycott Gardens

by E. Roy Epperson, North Carolina

Draycott Gardens are the display and commercial gardens of Carol and Andy Warner. The name "Draycott" comes from the town in England that was the home of Andy's ancestors. It means "peaceful retreat" or "secluded spot." Each of these meanings can be applied to these gardens which are spread over nine acres of the home farm of Carol's parents.

These gardens have been here for at least thirty years and are still evolving. It is a pleasure to visit such gardens over several years and see the changes that have been made. Since I was last in the garden two or three years ago, the vegetable garden has been completely redone as a more formal iris garden. The irises used to be planted in garden rows in the manner that I have heard called "an iris farm." (The real "iris farm" here is up and over the hill at her mother's place where Carol has lined out and grows the Siberian and Japanese iris for her commercial sales.) This spring, visitors saw a beautifully laid out garden with a Chippendale fence, a welcoming swing, and an armillary sundial as the central feature.

On to the bearded irises. RIVER RUNNER (Ernst '99) is a large ruffled mid-blue with a bluish-white beard. SOCIETY PAGE (Ghio '00) is a lovely soft pink with slightly darker pink shoulders. Sterling Innerst's EXCLUSIVITY ('99) has butterscotch-bronze S and dark-brown F with a band of butterscotch-bronze. (This was performing well in several of the gardens.) ENCHANTED MESA (Tom Magee

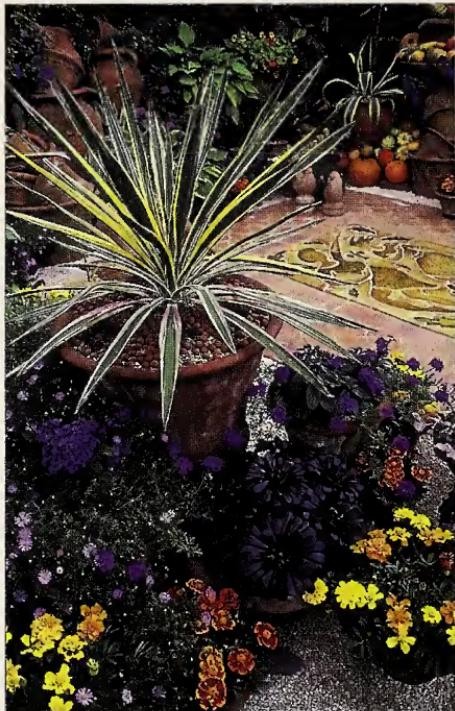
'99), a child of ACOMA, has light-blue S and ivory F with a purple plicata edge. David Miller's TITANIC'S NEMESIS ('00) is a large ruffled light blue with pale blue beard. Schreiner seedling BB 326-1 is a lovely ruffled deep-maroon self. MY GINNY (Spoon '00) is one of my favorite irises of all time (could it be because my beloved wife Virginia was also 'My Ginny'?) This cultivar has pearl-pink S and style arms with falls showing a purplish-pink border flowing from the large pink central area. It is ruffled and lightly laced. Seedling 9547A (Hooker Nichols) is a muted variegata with good branching.

SOMEBODY LOVES ME (Hollingworth '98) is a 'show-stopper' in any garden. This Siberian iris is a ruffled medium blue-violet with large white blaze. Bob Hollingworth's seedling 97C10A1 is a mid-blue with heavily ruffled style-arms. 97B1B25 is also heavily ruffled - a deep blue with white signal and ruffled aqua-blue style arms. ZARKY ONE (sdlg 93-5-1, Michael Zarky) is a flaring Siberian of pink-lavender color with an exciting aqua flash on the fall. Schafer/Sacks' SHIPS ARE SAILING ('98) is lightly ruffled and a smooth 'blend' of a light blue ground, with darker blue shading and veining. All of the 2000 introductions of Marty and Jan were growing here even though these were not guests; SUMMER REVELS ('99), a ruffled medium yellow bitone, and TOM SCHAEFER ('00) a yellow bitone with intense mid-to-deep yellow falls, stood out and attracted most of us.

A beautifully grown row of Carol's own seedlings attracted attention. Seedling 12 is a large flaring deep blue with a silver wire rim. Seedling 11 is a light medium blue with lightly ruffled style arms. Seedling 3 is a mid-violet self with ruffled styles. Seedlings 6, 10, 11, 12, and 14 won Exhibition Certificates at the accredited AIS show held on May 23 in conjunction with the National Convention.

The most recent changes to Draycott Gardens have been the addition of a glass enclosed conservatory adjacent to the garage and the complete re-working and moving of the rock garden. Just outside the conservatory is a bed of miniature conifers containing (among others) *Picea glauca* "Pixie" and *Chamaecyparis pisifera* "White Pygmy"—conifers that are 12 inches tall at maturity! Also in this bed is the variegated *polemonium* "Brise d'Anjou." This is a beautiful focal plant for the garden, but can be difficult to grow (i.e., keep alive.) The rock garden contains sedums, heuchera, yarrow, euphorbia, peonies, daylilies and more.

As the buses were on the way to the next garden, you could hear the excited questions: Did you see the *allium Schubertii*? Did you see the tamarix tree? Did you see the *I. Laevigata* growing and blooming in the



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Tall Bearded Iris Pictorial Reference

Janice Frizzell



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Tall Bearded Iris Pictorial Reference

160 pages packed with over 700 **Color** photographs of tall bearded irises. This book will fast become your most valued reference source. The irises pictured in this book range from the 1960's to 2000 introductions. The Tall Bearded Iris Pictorial Reference book has been exclusively published for you, the iris collector. Send payment of \$17.95, plus \$2.00 (USPS book rate shipping) per copy to:

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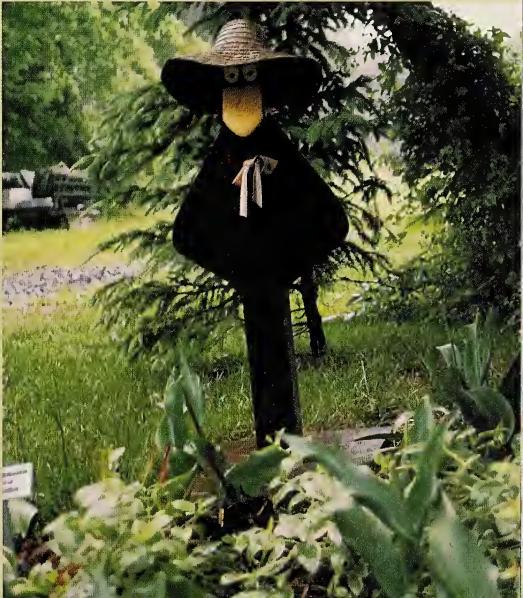
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Golembieski Garden



All Photos: Aitken

TARSHIP ENTERPRISE



fountain pool? Did you walk down the woodland path through the hostas? And the less fortunate would say "No"!

The Golembieski Garden

by Jerry & Melody Wilhoit, Illinois

Lying three miles south of the Eisenhower farm in the beautiful countryside of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, are the lovely country home and gardens of Frank and Linda Golembieski. A narrow winding lane bordered by timber led the buses to a clearing at the end of the road. Iris plantings wound through the landscape. We recognized many "old friends" such as BEVERLY SILLS and STUDY IN BLACK as we wandered the many well-planted beds. A large hosta garden was located under sycamore, maple, and elm trees. All were well-grown, and Linda said she purchased all her hostas from fellow iris-grower Paul Black and was very pleased with their quality. Many other shade plants graced the hosta garden - ferns, heucheras, and the *Brunnera macrophylla* 'variegata' (Siberian Bugloss) was particularly eye-catching.

Husband Frank tills and helps prepare new garden beds and then turns them over to Linda, whose love of irises began fourteen years ago when she and her mother-in-law purchased rhizomes together. Many other perennials grace the garden, such as peonies, roses, daylilies and foxglove, plus beardless irises - Japanese and Siberian.

Sterling Innerst has been Linda's mentor and she is very fond of some of his seedlings growing in her garden. Sterling has taught Linda so well that she has won "Best Specimen of Show" twice.

Linda favors tall bearded irises, and STARSHIP ENTERPRISE (Schreiner '99) is her favorite. As far as culture, Linda likes to plant early, and she uses *Cygon 2-E* for borer control, and Dial soap for rot.

Linda is an animal lover and has cats, ducks and a beautiful Rottweiler named Hanne. The cats were hiding from us, but Hanne was being protective of her master by growling softly (no harm intended) at most of the men as they strolled the iris rows. She also entertained us by tossing her plastic snake in the air. We were all pleased that it was plastic! Hanne is good help in the garden as she keeps the local varmints at bay.

The irises we noted here were:

Miniature Tall Bearded

MONTY DUANE (Wyss '99), standards and stylearms white, falls

white with lavender stripes radiating from the beard, pale lavender rims, yellow-orange beard.

ACE (L.Miller '99), white ground deeply dotted deep violet, lots of bloom and vigor, as it grows for us.

Intermediate Bearded

STARWOMAN (M.Smith '98), deep royal purple standards, falls pearl white with a wide purple band.

FATHOM (M. Smith '97), ruffled clear blue.

DELIRIUM (M.Smith '01), smoked gold standards, cream stylearms, gold crests; falls grayed gold rims and veins with a dark red-violet overlay. Terry Aitken's catalog says "a psychedelic dream of a luminata, unlike any to date." We agree.

Border Bearded

Carol Lankow's COOL TREAT ('94) was a lovely medium blue with perfect form.

Tall Bearded

INFERNAL FIRE (G.Richardson '94), buff-gold heavily stippled and splotched magenta with a golden beard.

STARSHIP ENTERPRISE (Schreiner '99), white standards with a yellow midrib; falls creamy yellow banded with a two-inch border of rosy magenta, yellow shoulders. RITUAL (Ghio '99), red mahogany S.; electric violet blended F. with mahogany bands.

RARE QUALITY (Schreiner '99), white ground plicata with deep plum-purple edge.

WARM WISHES (Maryott '99), medium yellow with lighter center area.

Thanks, Linda, for sharing your wonderful garden with us.

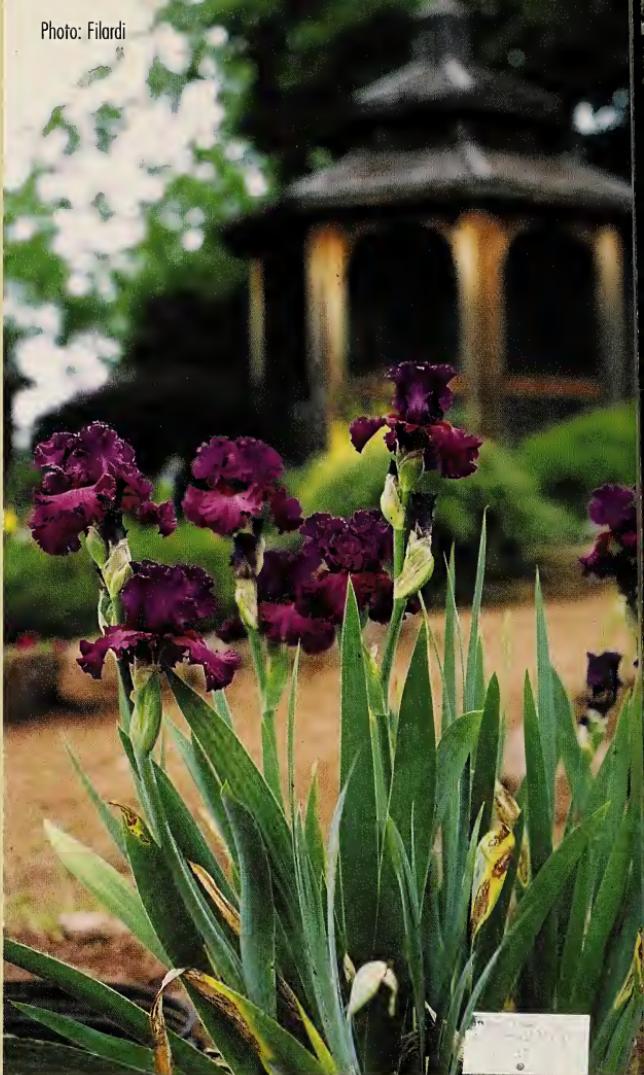
Griffie Garden

by Judy Keisling, Missouri

The sky was clear and sunny when the bus headed northwest from the convention center for our first stop on the first day — Harold and Gayle Griffie's garden in the gently rolling hills near Biglerville, PA, due north of historic Gettysburg. Stepping off the bus, it was just a short stroll to the raised beds to the right of the house where the guest plants nestled alongside some of the Griffies' favorite iris from their personal collection.

Our visit to this garden was limited to just under an hour, making

Griffie Garden
FASHIONABLY LATE



Marquart Garden

Photo: Ait





Hornstein Garden



it necessary to quickly peruse the garden and decide where to focus my attention first. Quickly catching my eye was a perfect clump of Fred Kerr's CHRISTIANA BAKER ('99). Six buds, three of which were open, were perfectly positioned on this well branched border bearded with white standards and pale blue falls edged in dark blue. Also showing off was a vigorous clump of HELEN LEADER (TB, Innerest '97), displaying pink standards and pink falls subtly overlaid with pale lavender. Other guests by Sterling Innerest that were performing nicely were ANVIL OF DARKNESS (TB, '98), a deep black self, DOROTHY DAVIS (TB, '95), an orange self, and EXCLUSIVITY (TB, '99), with strikingly bright butterscotch-bronze standards, darkish brown falls with edging almost exactly matching the color of the standards, and golden orange beards.

Quickly walking from row to row, so as not to miss a thing, I was drawn to the stark white standards and white falls with purple lines radiating from the bright red beards of PUCCINI (TB, Ghio '99). Also striking were the nicely balanced blooms on Ghio's STAGE LIGHTS (TB, '99), with light peach standards and medium maroon falls with a luminata wash and light pink veining around the peach-colored beards.

Far from their native Texas home, the blooms on two great looking clumps of Tom Burseen's plicatas were basking happily in the warm, early morning Pennsylvania sun: ruffled white, washed purple, ALTERED STATES (TB, '97) and BLANKETY BLANK (TB '98), ruffled with cherry-washed white standards, and creamy apricot falls washed with the same tantalizing cherry color and matching solid edging. Another outstanding sighting was Virginia Messick's ELECTRIC SHOCK (TB, '96), with blue washed standards and falls and dark blue beards.

Other guests that caught my eye included CANDY APPLE CLASSIC (TB, Maryott '99) with reddish maroon standards cupped gently over bright metallic candy red violet falls; ANNORAH LYNN (TB, Hedgecock, '00), heavily laced and ruffled medium purple with silvery beards; RAKU BLAZE (TB, Aitken, '96) with amber yellow standards and light lavender falls accented by a deep lavender blaze; PINBALL WIZARD (TB, Lauer, '99) a striking bi-color with bronze yellow standards and oxblood red falls; a heavily ruffled, white self, TOUCHED BY ANGELS (TB, Maryott, '99); and IDIDIT (TB, Schick, '97), a lightly ruffled dark lavender edged with what looked like a rusty-colored lavender.

Although the tall bearded clumps clearly had the lion's share of the bloom, there was a smattering of others in bloom as well. I saw an outstanding clump of OMAR'S EYE (Boswell, '00), an OGB Aril with light

lavender standards and white falls with violet veining that blended to light lavender at the edge. Jill Copeland's KRILL ('00), a light yellow *I. Pseudacorus* with a heavily veined red signal on the falls, beckoned me to take a closer look, as did SOMEBODY LOVES ME (SIB, Hollingsworth '98) with its ruffled medium blue violet blooms with a large white blaze on the falls.

I would be remiss not to mention that many seedlings were performing well in this garden. Particularly worthy of note were Glen Bowers' B6-8 (TB), a spectacular ruffled white with flaring falls and lemon yellow beard, Dave Niswonger's 46-95 (TB), magenta with bright orange beards framed by a pale pink blaze on the falls, Jimmy Burch's 58-7 (TB) a white, stitched purple, plicata, and Don Sorensen's S-91-18-3 (TB) a heavily ruffled white with yellow beards accented with perfect branching and bud count.

So much to see, and so little time — but despite the bus captain's whistle, I just had to check out one more thing: the Griffies' wonderful two-tiered, rock-edged water garden, joined by a waterfall and bordered by *I. Pseudacorus*. Alas, it was time to leave. I didn't want to. Thank you, Harold and Gayle, for sharing your wonderful garden.

Sans Souci, a Garden Estate

By Jeanne and Bob Plank, California

Located on thirteen acres in an idyllic country setting, Sans Souci is the home, garden and nursery of Bruce Hornstein, a retired veterinarian, and Lee Dorman, a mortgage broker. "Sans Souci," a name which means "without care" or "carefree," is located 25 miles northeast of Baltimore and includes various landscaped areas, a half acre farm pond stocked with fish, a flowing stream, woodlands, meadows, and a large commercial growing field.

Sans Souci guest iris beds were on a knoll above a curving driveway. The walk from the bus to the guest irises was slowed by beds bordering the driveway filled with peonies and large clumps of historic bearded irises and Siberians in full bloom. Multiple clumps of the old favorite CAESAR'S BROTHER (Morgan '32), a velvety purple historic Siberian, were spaced throughout the borders, and were especially delightful. This was all just an appetizer to the garden banquet that lay ahead. Sans Souci falls into horticultural Zone 7B, a zone that is the northern most range for a large number of plants and the southern most range for a great many others. Bruce has taken advantage of the

Warner Garden

Photo: Filardi



Photo: Aitken

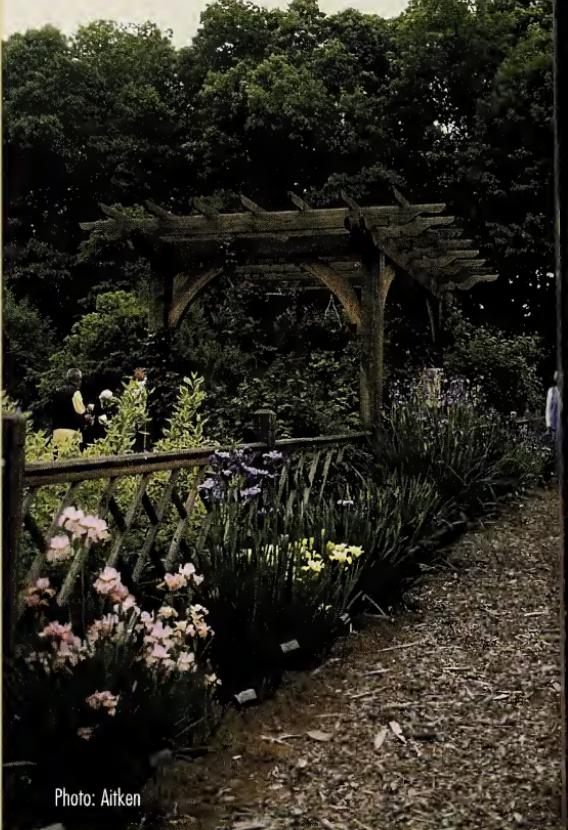




Photo: Aitken

versatility of Zone 7B by assembling an interesting array of plants - irises of all types as well as non-irises - to grace his estate and interest his visitors.

Siberian irises, which perform well in this area, were at near-peak bloom in all of the 2001 convention gardens. Siberians beautifully in bloom, and Japanese irises, not yet in bloom, have been planted liberally throughout Sans Souci's private and commercial garden areas in beds created especially for their cultural requirements. Bob and I live in a climate generally considered unfavorable for most Siberian irises, so the abundance of Siberian bloom was a very special treat.

Bruce has constructed an artificial bog along the main route to the half-acre farm pond ("lake"). Designed primarily for growing bog-loving irises, this bed is also used to grow other plants that thrive in bog conditions.

Framed by Maryland woods and a meadow filled with blooming buttercups, the lake offers one of the most picturesque and tranquil spots at Sans Souci. Carved out of the meadow, a short distance from the lakeshore, were two large, well-tended beds, one for Siberians, and the other for Japanese, interspecies hybrids and various irises of similar culture. Appearing to be somewhat behind the rest of the garden, these beds were just beginning the season and bloom was light. SHAKER'S PRAYER (Carol Warner '90), winner of the President Cup at the 1991 Convention; BETWEEN THE LINES, a '91 *versicolor* introduction from Schafer/Sacks; and LITTLE TRICOLOR (R. '69 by Sensenback), a dwarfish, plum-purple Siberian, provided some early bloom to enjoy. Some of the Louisiana, *versicolor*, *pseudacorus* and *laevigata* irises planted at the lake's shoreline were blooming and, outlined by the waters of the lake, produced a lovely, classic picture.

Returning from the lake, we came upon a rock-framed pond and water garden created in an oriental-influenced design. This small pond, located near the Hornstein residence, is rimmed by a Japanese-style wooden pathway and surrounded by water-loving irises, peonies, Japanese maples and plants suitable to the oriental mood. The pond was teeming with the polliwogs from Bruce's collection of several different species of frog, another interesting facet in this wonderfully versatile garden.

A pebble-covered pathway winding from the polliwog pond, through a lacy green woodland, dotted with wild flowers and an occasional bench, comes to an end near the entrance to Sans Souci's production field. This large field has a fence along one side behind which the neighboring farm's herd of Finnish sheep and their lambs grazed peacefully in the distance. An extensive collection of irises and

other commercial stock plants are grown here. The collection includes a variety of beardless irises, TBs, and medians, as well as over 300 MTBs, a generous gift from Region 4 irisarian Dick Sparling. There was an abundance of bloom to enjoy. Several long rows of peonies in bloom were an added treat for someone from Southern California where these lovely flowers do not perform well.

A roadway to the neighboring farm runs along the top of a rise overlooking the field at the far end. Bruce has constructed a perennial bed that runs much of the length of the roadway. The planting creates a pleasing scene and offers an attractive combination of oriental poppies, cherry colored double columbines, and clumps of Siberians including SPIRIT OF YORK (Bush '85), OVER IN GLORYLAND (Hollingworth '92) and ILLINI CHARM (Varner '74). To complete the picture, numerous groupings of reliable reblooming tall bearded irises such as the violet and white plicata ENGLISH COTTAGE (Zurbrigg '76) and the salmon pink NOW AND LATER (Zurbrigg '72) were included.

A large collection of Siberians in a bed directly behind the Guest Irises was in peak bloom. Old and new, national and international, diploid and tetraploid Siberian cultivars of all kinds provided eye-catching competition for their more flamboyant tall bearded cousins. Along with a dozen or more other Siberian varieties, the blue-purple dapple patterned ANN DASCH (Varner '77), the cornflower blue RIVER DANCE (Schafer/Sacks '97), the blue and white, German-bred LICHTERFELDIUS (Tamberg '97), and the white tetraploid HARPSWELL SNOW (McEwen '96) offered a display of great beauty. The Guest Irises at Sans Souci were planted in a semi-circular bed that capped a double-rowed inner circle. The outer row of the inner circle was planted with English Dykes Medal winners; the inner row, in broken color irises. ORINOCO FLOW ('94), WENSLEYDALE ('88), DANCER'S VEIL ('63), and BLUE ENSIGN ('49) provided an unusual opportunity for many Conventioneers to see English DM winners in bloom.

More familiar, but nonetheless attention grabbing, was a small collection of Brad Kasperek's color break introductions. Color break irises are always intriguing; however, two in this planting particularly caught the eye. SPICED TIGER ('96), an early TB, was still sporting several bright and sassy blossoms of spicy brown sugar spread with butter yellow at the shoulders and over all marbled with silver white streaks. ALPHA GNU ('99), a very early SPEC-X (Batik X Ostry White) drew special attention when a true chimera flower opened



Leader Garden

All Photos: Aitken



Innerst Garden





Photo: Filardi

Roberts Garden

BOUTIQUE FASHION

Photo: Aitken



during convention. ALPHA GNU's normal flower is a broken color combination of reddish violet streaked silver white. The chimeral flower displayed three falls with unmistakable genetic pattern differences. Fall #1 was completely marked in the streaking color break pattern. Fall #2, divided down the center at the beard, displayed color break streaking on one half, and clearly displayed plicata markings the other. The third fall completely and distinctly displayed only the plicata pattern. Such genetic exhibitions are unusual enough to attract attention whenever they happen.

During the pre-convention period, one portion of the guest iris bed had developed a problem with rot requiring some of the guests to be relocated to the production fields for safety. Those that remained were performing well at convention time and received much deserved attention. Some of those offering eye catching displays were HABIT (P. Black '99), a violet and dark purple black bitone; two Burseen intros, SEZITSO ('97), a mauve/purple bitone, and TEXTRONICS ('98), an elegant dark purple; Pete DeSantis' vigorous and floriferous electric plum-violet SCOONCHEE ('97); CHEVALIER DE MALTE (Cayeux '98), a plum and orange marvel from France; the beautiful lavender RUFFLED GODDESS (Tasco '93); the border bearded, rose-lavender bitone, TWILIGHT MOONRISE (Spoon '99); and SYLVANSHINE ('97), a branched and heavily budded white *I. setosa* species introduced by Clarence Mahan and Carol Warner, a welcome addition to any garden.

DEAR JEAN (Kerr '96), with bright yellow standards over white falls, extensive gold hafts and a wide red-wine edge, brightened the corner where she grew, as did the Schreiner seedling #CC-760-G, which looks strikingly like a yellow ground, near relative to STARSHIP ENTERPRISE (Schreiner '99).

A lovely white seedling from Glen Bowers, #B6-8, adorned with yellow hafts veined darker yellow, caught one's eye, as did the smooth, velvety, lightly ruffled wine-red LENTEN PRAYER (Schreiner '98). Most unusual, and certainly one of the most appealing seedlings blooming at Sans Souci was Anton Mego's seedling #93-0038. Its standards and styles are pale near-white orchid thinly edged gold. Its falls, also thinly edged but in silver-white, are plum purple, lined silver at the hafts and around the old gold beards.

For me, the queen among the Hornstein garden guests was QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Kerr '00). Standing tall, with multiple flowers open crisp and flaring, it was hard to beat the beauty of this snow white iris with clean dark electric-blue edged falls and orange red beards.

QUEEN'S CIRCLE took the Cook Cup over its pollen parent CHRISTIANA BAKER (Kerr '99) which was right behind as first runner up. These honors were well deserved by both exquisite irises. A common complaint is that there is never enough time to do justice to most convention gardens. There was certainly more to see at Sans Souci than convention time or logistics could possibly allow. Bruce maintains a greenhouse, attached to the main house, in which he grows his orchid collection. A root cellar, occupying a sizable portion of the main house's basement, over-winters tubers from his extensive dahlia collection and other plants not winter hardy in this zone. Of course these were not part of the convention trek, but like the frog pond, the bog garden, the lake and the meadow they are part of the whole that makes up Sans Souci. All and all, Sans Souci is a garden estate where much thoughtful planning has gone into making the horticultural experience as thorough but "carefree" as possible.

Sterling Innerst

by Kathy Guest, New York State

As iris hybridizers go, Sterling Innerst is one of those "Most Unforgettable Characters" that used to be profiled in a popular magazine. He is not shy about speaking his mind, but he is also a gracious man, generous with his time, and a gifted hybridizer of bearded and beardless irises. Being able to visit his garden once again was a special treat.

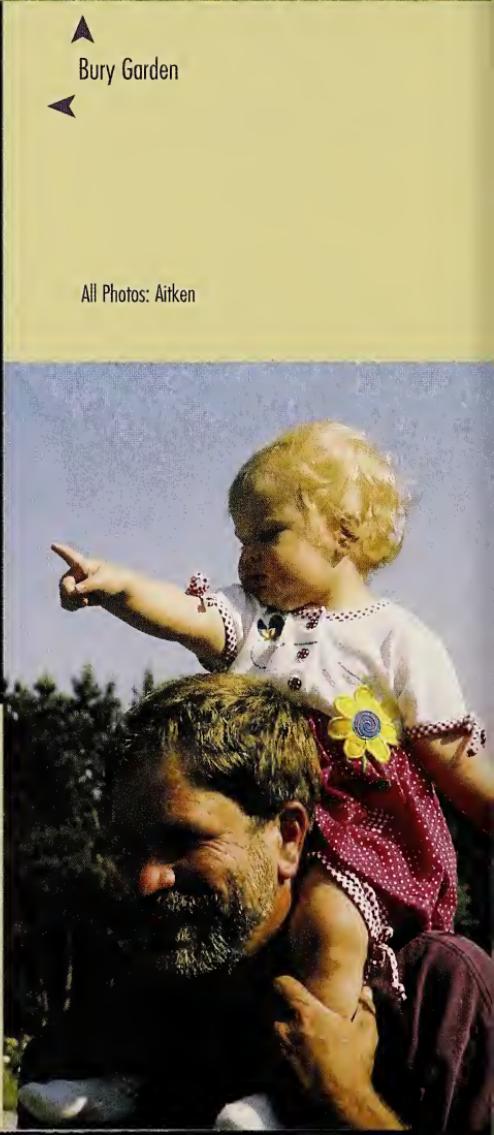
Since the last time a convention was based in this part of the world, much had changed regarding Sterling Innerst – not only had he moved his entire household and garden, but he had also lost his life partner, Barbara, to cancer. So although this was a return, it was a return to an entirely different place with a different flavor.

Sterling's iris garden is much like the man himself, challenging terrain anchored by history. This is not a place most people would site a garden – the grade is steep, the ground is stony, and just getting from garden to garden requires a certain amount of agility. But having said that, it's a fabulous garden – braced by an ancient stone wall and overlooked by a wonderful, historic stone house. Staggered down the slope are garden after garden filled with magnificently grown irises.

I always like to begin with the seedling beds. Walking seedlings is like looking into a crystal ball and seeing the future; it's very exciting. The first to catch my eye was 4571-4, a heavily-budded TB (and remember, this is Dover, PA) bubble ruffled and the color of light tea.



Tim Jerrard and daughter Kali



Bury Garden

All Photos: Aitken



Photo: R. Plank

2001 AIS Medal Winners

NAPPALE (T. Aitken), Knowlton Medal (top)

UI GOLD (T. Aitken), Hans and Jacob Sass Medal
(bottom)



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Aitken

5132-1 has wonderful grape standards and yellow falls, and 5044-5 is a sophisticated, ruffled silver.

The stars of the garden are, of course, the introduced varieties. Sterling's irises are distinctive, both in their names and his particular style. He is best known for his blacks (can anyone forget the huge drift of BEFORE THE STORM at the last convention?), and the exotic plicatas. APPARENT SECRET is yellow with purple streaked falls and the appearance of a yellow rim. But hands down, ANVIL OF DARKNESS was the star of the garden and of the entire convention. This is a mysterious tailored and velvety dark, dark purple, even darker than BTS, and it is finished with a royal purple beard. It was stunning in every garden, but especially so in its birthplace.

CONTINUITY reminds me a little of CODICIL, that same pale cornflower with purple beards; but this version is refined with loopy ruffles and a dark wash down the center of the falls. CREDIBLE JUSTIFICATION is a showoff plic, pale plum with a cream center. I had not seen Sterling's EROTIC TOUCH before, and it will soon be featured at the Stately Guest Estates, an interesting caramel-copper with a touch of lavender and a surprising orange beard.

This garden contained a large number of guests as well. SNOW JOB (Black '98) is a chic white touched with lemon on the shoulders. PUCCINI (Ghio '99) got much attention during this convention, with white standards, butterscotch shoulders, and a wild grape-lined center on the falls. LAUGH LINES (Ghio '99) is a dark purple grape with tight, white veining. BODY AND SOUL (Stahly '99) is a sunny peach and apricot TB with white beard.

There were quite a few Siberian irises in this garden: SIMPLE GIFTS (Hollingworth '94), a tailored and elegant white; BLUEBERRY FAIR (Hollingworth '97), a very ruffled blue with the signature signal and round falls; and Hollingworth seedling 97B1B23, a very ruffled dark purple with dark raspberry standards. Schafer/Sacks were represented by FOND KISS ('99), white with a lavender-pink center on the falls, and seedling S92-75-11, heavily stippled with lavender over yellow, finished with a tiny yellow rim.

The Innerst garden is not just about irises, however. There is a lath house filled with orchids of all descriptions, and the homestead is monitored by several cats, a friendly dog, and the resident geese named (we are told) Guber #1, #2, #3, and #4.

Jerrard Garden

by Peter Weixlmann, New York

What do you do when you have purchased a well known hybridizer's garden? A garden where the Dykes Medal winner BEFORE THE STORM was created. The garden where TENNESSEE GENTLEMAN, AFTER THE STORM, JABAL, BUNNICULA, MEGGLETHORP, EPIMETHEUS, PERSEPHONE, and AGRIPPINE first bloomed. The garden that the real estate broker said would never sell with all those iris beds on the property. (So they were removed.)

Well the answer is to sell to a young couple named Tim and Nicole Jerrard and watch as the original gardens are transformed from rows of hybridizer aisles to a new landscape design. The Jerrards have lived at Sterling Innerst's old digs for three years now and they are busy making it their own. Gone are the stone-edged raised beds of curious clumps, replaced by serpentine island beds. The evolving garden is a mixture of perennials and irises, both classic and new varieties.

Exotic orchids hang from the trees - a gift from the departing Sterling. A large planting featuring a dry stone riverbed runs the length of one large field. Classic irises such as APOLLODORUS, THORNBIRD, BEVERLY SILLS and BUMBLEBEE DEELITE are interspersed among the rocks.

The guest iris beds were in peak bloom! INTENSE EMOTIONS (Innerst '00) is a variegata with 8 buds, velvet finished red falls with a smart gold edge. WISE RULER (Hooker Nichols '00) was lovely with tan standards, yellow gold falls, bushy orange beard and 10 buds. Rick Tasco's RUFFLED GODDESS ('93), a beautiful heavily flounced orchid self, was memorable. The Border Bearded standout was CAROUSEL WALTZ (Helsley '96), with gold brown standards shot with plum, gold-edged falls with rich orchid centers, and a gold beard. George Sutton's BYE BYE BLUES was equally amazing - a 1997 introduction, a wisteria blue reverse bitone with a deeper flush up the standards and down the falls. RARE QUALITY (Schreiner '99) had four open blossoms, quite a show stalk; good and strong to support the flowers of hyacinth purple plicata.

Many other gorgeous iris were in bloom but, as happens, the time is too short and the bus waits for no-one.



BETWEEN THE LINES (M. Schafer & J. Sacks), Founders of SIGNA Medal (top)

KALIFA'S HORN (R. Arnand), William Mohr Medal (right)

DESERT FURY (H. Shockey), Clarence G. White Medal (bottom)

Photo: Aitken



Photo: Shockey



LINE FESTIVAL (D. Haymon), Mary
ards DeBaillon Medal (right)

DEN'S CHILD (S. Tiffney), Randolph
y Medal (SPEC-X) (below)

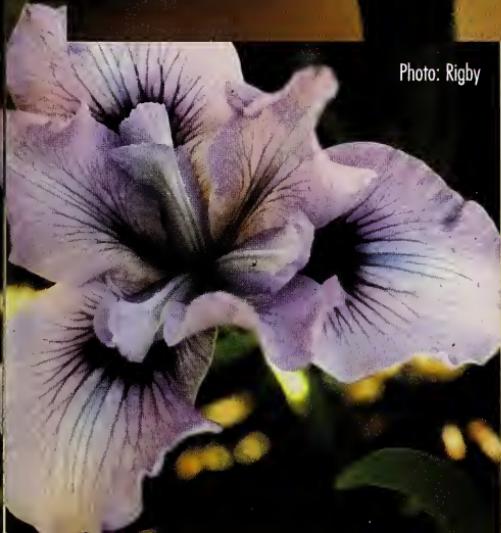
N ERICKSON (C. Rigby), Sydney B.
hell Medal (bottom)



Photo: Carla Lankow



Photo: Rigby



AIS
2001
Medal
Winners

The Leader Garden

by Riley Probst, Missouri

The tenth and last garden we had the pleasure of visiting was the garden of Jason (the convention chairman) and Pat Leader. In this case we may have saved best for last. We knew what to expect because we had visited their garden during the 1995 York Convention. It was an outstanding garden then and it was equally outstanding this time. MTB's are the Leaders' favorite types of irises; Jason is doing some hybridizing with MTB's.

Being an MTB hybridizer myself, I headed first for the MTB's, and I was not disappointed. Here the MTB's were growing by far the best of any of the gardens. Maybe it was because they were all planted together in full sun on a hillside that they were putting on such a spectacular show. I was pleased with how mine were performing. **SOMEWHAT QUIRKY** (Probst, 2001) was a great clump with standards creamy yellow over white falls veined lavender. **MINI WABASH** (Probst, 1996) looked good, and also blooming well were **PRETTY JAZZY** (Probst), with golden yellow standards and mahogany falls veined white with yellow rim, and **PRETTY REWARD** (Probst), with gold standards and raspberry-purple falls rimmed gold; both are registered but yet to be introduced. **MADAM PRESIDENT**, canary yellow standards and amethyst falls veined purple, and **ROYAL DEBUTANTE**, yellow standards and purple falls rimmed yellow, were excellent; both are Hugh Thurman (2001). Jack Norrick had two that were looking good: **CHELSEA TURNER** (1999), yellow standards and yellow falls edged darker, and **STIPPLED LADY** (1996), white peppered violet. Lynda Miller's **ACE** (1999), a deep violet and white plicata, was doing well, as was Roger Miller's **BEN E. FACTOR**. Ken Fisher's **PROVEN STOCK** (1997), with brass standards and purple falls, and **STEFFIE** (1993), with white standards and violet and purple falls, were up to Fisher's usual standards. Jean Witt's **KEIRITH** (1998), an unusual pale yellow and lavender plicata, was also doing well, as was Jim Loveland's seedling #98-2, with tan standards and burgundy falls.

Well, the TB's looked great too. George Sutton's **FRENCH HORN** (1998) had nine stalks of phlox pink blooms with orange shoulders and 2" bright orange appendages. **OSAY CANUC** (Tom Burseen, 2001) was looking patriotic with eight stalks; blooms had white standards, white falls with blue purple lines, and red beards with a white horn. **PHANTASY IN PINK** (Virginia Messick, 1999) is a

heavily ruffled pink. One that I really liked was PUCCINI (Joe Ghio, 1999), with white standards and white falls with purple lines radiating from a red beard, hard to describe. Looking good here and in other gardens was CHRISTIANA BAKER (Fred Kerr, 1999), a BB with white standards and white falls with a dark blue edge; it was first runner-up for the Cook Cup. CHASING RAINBOWS (Ben Hager, 1998) was great here as it is everywhere; standards are peach pink over falls of buff, lavender and blue, with a tangerine beard. HIGH BLUE SKY (Rick Ernst, 1998) is a nice two-toned light blue. An interesting iris with its striking green and white foliage was CANADIAN STREAKER (Chuck Chapman, 1997); the bloom is a nice ruffled light blue self. Unfortunately, I had not even made it to the refreshment area and time was up! Our wonderful garden tours were over for this year and it was now time to return and get ready for the awards banquet.

Marquart Garden

by John Jones, California

The morning started out ominous as the fog quickly moved in. The skies were dark and threatening rain. This is how the first day of garden touring began at the AIS 2001 Convention. The first stop for us was Terry and Susan Marquart's garden in Carlisle, PA. Carlisle just happens to be my (John's) home town, at least for the first 3 years of my life, and the town where my grandmother lived. Unfortunately I couldn't get the bus driver to driver by my grandmother's house. He was really quite insistent about it...

The Marquart garden sits amongst a rolling Pennsylvania woodland. Upon arriving, the clouds began to scatter and the sun made an appearance. Ranger, their dog, greeted us with barks. The house sits on one acre with flowers taking up about a third of it. Upon exiting the bus one sees the tall row of double Persian lilac bushes, a dark violet in color. These were transplanted from Terry's mother's home and are 200 years old. In 1987, when Terry's mother got ill, he took over the household chores which included taking care of the garden. This is how he got involved with irises and eventually moved hundreds of rhizomes from his mother's house and planted them in his garden.

The first iris we came upon was SNOOPY, a Carol Lankow '96 Border Bearded, just barely in bloom. A white self, it showed a faint hint of violet in the falls, white beard tipped in red, nicely branched and spaced. Next to it was INDIGO DOLL, another Lankow BB



Photo: Aitken

STRAWBERRY FAIR (R. Hollingsworth)
Morgan-Wood Medal (left)

PICOTEE PRINCESS (L. Reid), Payne
Medal (below)

MISSOURI SPRINGS (D. Niswonger),
Eric Nies Medal (bottom)



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Niswonger



Photo: Aitken

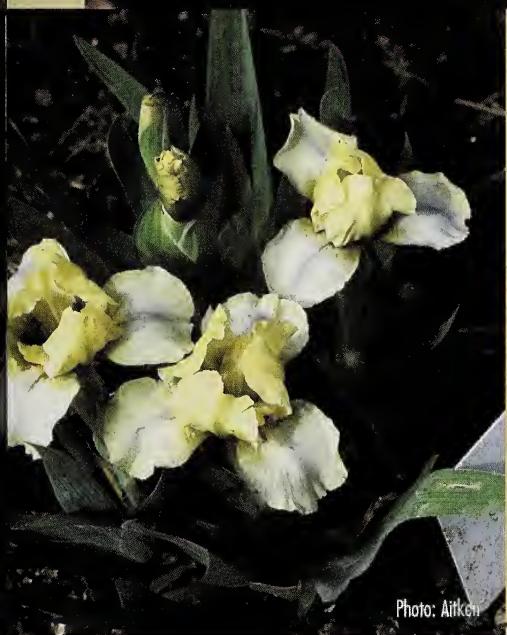


Photo: Aitken

2001 AIS Medal Winners

BANGLES (L. Miller), Williamson-White Medal (above)

HEY THERE (Carol Lankow), Caparne-Welch Medal (left)

STAR BABY (M. Smith), Cook-Douglas Medal (bottom)

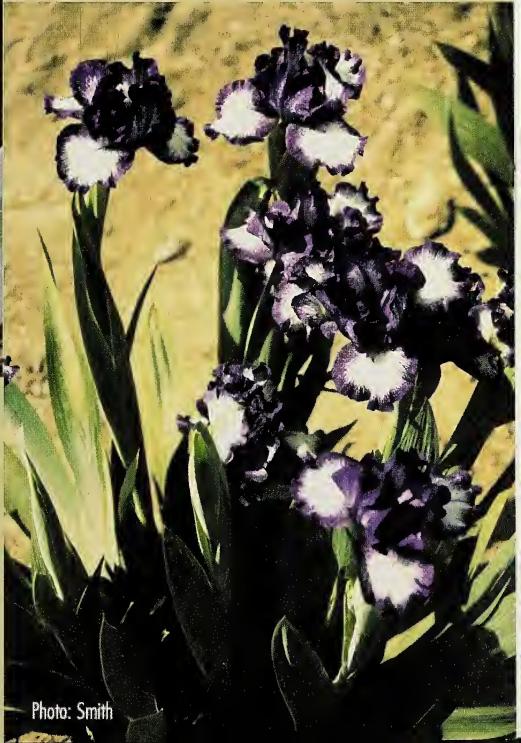


Photo: Smith

introduction (1997); very light blue standards and dark blue falls and bushy red beards.

Next we saw a very nice clump of QUEEN'S CIRCLE (Kerr '00), which turned out to be the winner of the Franklin Cook Cup for the best iris introduced outside the Region 3. With snow white standards, white falls with dark violet edge fading to white, and orange beards fading to white with yellow tips, QUEEN'S CIRCLE was putting on a lovely show with 15 increases and 7- 8 blooms per stalk. CHRISTIANA BAKER (BB) (HM '01) also a Kerr ('99) introduction, had 18 increases. It is reminiscent of a smaller version of QUEEN'S CIRCLE with the falls more heavily infused with the same dark violet and a slightly wider rim, with the blooms held well above the foliage.

Fred tells me that "The Queen's Circle lines arose from the desire to have the EMMA COOK pattern with the darkest possible edge on a plant of tall bearded height. The goal of a dark edge came from the cross which produced CHRISTIANA BAKER. The edge was dark enough, but it was on a BB plant. I had obtained very nice Emma Cook patterns from several other lines, but the edge was not as dark as I wanted. When Christiana Baker was crossed with Victoria Circle (Edith Wolford X Lullaby of Spring), QUEEN'S CIRCLE was the result. Another goal of the Emma Cook lines was to get a good tangerine beard on the flower. Interestingly the tangerine beard on QUEEN'S CIRCLE was not expected, but there are tangerine bearded ancestors on both sides."

Next we saw HABIT (Black '99), light violet over dark royal purple falls, gold beard and a sweet fragrance, a very striking flower. Down the row was BUGLES AND HORNS (Sutton '97), an eye catching white self with consistently presented horns and flounces. Tall well formed stalks hold the flowers up to attract attention from well across the garden; 6-7 buds and a well proportioned flower. Nearby was VIOLET SHIMMER (Moores '98) (HM '01). It had 9 increases and 3 stalks, with large well shaped flowers in good proportion; violet speckled white standards, white ground with a wide violet rim, with violet speckles and haft marks.

Next was a Schreiner seedling CC1294-I. 9 buds on a well formed stalk. Standards were a light grey ground with a pink-lavender infusion, darker lavender streaks along the midrib. Falls deep lavender lilac with a white blaze around the white orange beards. Another Schreiner seedling CC760-G displayed large flowers with yellow standards; falls have a white ground with a wide 1" rose-purple band, yellow-white

zone under the beard. It is a flower that draws your eye from across the garden.

Elsewhere in the garden were:

CANADIAN STREAKER (Chapman '97) - 14 increases, 6-7 buds; it has both variegated foliage and purple based foliage. Nicely proportioned flower and stalk. Ruffled light lavender self with heavy cream streaking on the falls growing very well at this convention.

Seedling 3763-5 Innerst - medium height, white self with orange white beard, ruffled and laced. A nicely proportioned flower, well formed branches with flowers held well above the foliage, good bud count.

SOCIAL GRACES (Keppel, '00) - Ruffled, highly laced, medium red-lavender shading to bronze closer to the beard fading lighter, sweetly fragrant.

We had such a short time in this garden I was not able to adequately cover all there was to see. Terry and Susan Marquart are active in AIS and Region 3. In 1995, they were a convention garden for the national convention. They work together in the garden, enjoying the fruits of their labors.

Friendship Gardens

By Jim and Jean Morris, Missouri

We arrived at the 22-acre garden of Ken and Joan Roberts near Gettysburg, PA, with visions of General Robert E. Lee's army coming through the rolling hills and lush valley. This former Quaker farm has been developed into a horticultural delight and an iris lover's dream.

First a garden overview. Looking up the drive toward the two-story house with surrounding deck, one could see the AIS guest beds on the left with an inside circle of historic irises. The Dykes Medal beds were on the right hillside and included English, French and American winners. National flags were a nice touch. A shady area behind the guests started above the house and went downhill via a stream to the pond area. Surrounding the house were some named varieties Joan is acclimatizing to use in her hybridizing program. Also there was a great clump of *I. pallida variegata* 'ZEBRA' by a birdbath. Behind the house was a large white refreshment tent (we never had time to enter it) and to the right the hybridizers' beds with seedlings of Clarence Mahan,



Photo: Smith

Walther Cup
(most HM votes)
STARWOMAN (M. Smith)



I. KOREANA (Species), above
MY GINNY (Spoon), left



NEAT TRICK (White), top left

ALPHA GNU (Kasperek), top right

RUFFLED GODDESS (Tasco), middle left

ROSEY BOWS (Bauer/Coble), middle right

AMERICAN EAGLE (Sutton), left

Convention Guest Iris

Sterling Innerst and Lloyd Zurbrigg. Lloyd was there conducting personal tours and answering any and all questions regarding his crosses and goals. Also on the right beyond the Dykes beds were the six acres of Joan Roberts' seedlings and the commercial planting lined out in alphabetical order.

Now for details. The Dykes plantings were inherited from Rosalie Figge and hadn't adjusted to their new home yet, so bloom was sparse but promise was great for the future. A quick walkthrough led us to the bottom of the driveway to work our way back through the tremendous guest planting which was at peak bloom.

Catching our eye was a well-branched stalk of IN YOUR DREAMS (L. Miller 00) with deep cream-buff standards, violet washed midribs and amethyst falls. Growing nearby was NOBLE LADY (L. Miller 99) a pink with coral beards and small lavender horns. A great clump of the petite BB CAROUSEL WALTZ (Helsley 96) had nine stalks with two to four open blooms each. The standards of this fine specimen were light brown to old gold and falls were pale violet edged honey gold with beards a bit darker; you could see the quality of its pollen parent Brown Lasso showing through. It was good to see LITTLE JOHN (Spoon 96) again as we remembered it from the Colorado Convention; it has great substance in lavender pink over lavender with a tangerine beard.

The bright orange CARNIVAL SUNSET (Thurman 97) had almost red beards and six buds. WARM MEMORIES (Mullin 95) is a well-formed lavender orchid with a rose-white blaze and tangerine beard tipped white. This was the first time for us to see the much hyped STARRING (Ghio 00) and it didn't disappoint. It is not an exaggeration to call it a black amoena. Equally intriguing however, were the style arm crests which were white edged blackish-gold as if singed by fire. It went on our "must have" list. A few seedlings of note included: Tim Stanek's 95-3G with a show stalk in ruffled sooty blue-violet with unique veins and a white blaze; Ron Mullin's 917F in medium purple underlaid white, which really shows up in the white buds; Jim Loveland's 93SX11KD6 in light lavender with lavender wash on silver falls; and Lowell Baumunk's 671B a most unusual yellow, white and lavender luminata.

The resident hybridizer, Joan Roberts, had several of her introductions and seedlings showing off in other parts of the garden. LADY CLAIRE (J. Roberts 01) is named for past AIS president Claire Barr and it is outstanding. It is a rose-pink blend with bubble ruffling, a white blaze and eight buds. CHARLIE'S CLOUD (J.

Roberts 98) is basically white with pale blue in the standards and flaring falls. CHRISTIANE ELIZABETH (Mahan 01), named for Clarence's daughter, is out of SUKY (named for his wife). This TB rebloomer is a ruffled blue-violet with a stunning white blaze that extends up into the standards.

Back in the guest bed, we were impressed by AMERICAN EAGLE (Sutton 98), a ruffled and flared silver-white TB space ager with huge flounces. VIVE LA FRANCE (Cayeux 94) was nice in white over purple with a white blaze veined purple and white beard tipped orange. PRAETORIAN GUARD (Meininger 98), a tall space ager, was basically medium yellow standards over brown falls edged yellow, with a lavender horn tipped yellow. Another stunning iris was SANTA (Shoop 98), the creamy peach with the bright pinkish salmon haft marking. Most impressive MTBs were JUSTA WISH (Morgan 98), white over purple veined white; CHELSEA TURNER (Norrick 99), bright yellow with some cream in the falls and many stalks; and MADAME PRESIDENT (Thurman 01), in canary yellow over amethyst violet with a yellow rim.

Historic irises in full bloom included TAJ MAHAL (Sturtevant 1921), RHEINGAUPERLE (G & K 1924), MADY CARRIERE (Millet & Fils 1905), MADISON COOPER (Fryer 1919), NANCY ORNE (Sturtevant 1921) and MOTHER OF PEARL (Sturtevant 1917).

The Roberts' shade garden was a delight with its blend of named hostas including Suzanne (our daughter's name), Japanese painted ferns, heucheras, variegated Solomon's Seal, *I. tectorum*, tetrapanax (a plant used to make rice paper) and woodland peonies. Along the stream were *I. pseudocorus*, Siberians and some Louisianas. The native rock paths and steps were built by Ken's sister Lea Walz. A review of their iris plantings wouldn't be complete without mentioning NEAT TRICK (White 97) the first broken color Siberian. To us it is a real breakthrough with white markings on purple.

The time allotted to this garden wasn't close to adequate, so we told the whistle blower to go without us. We stayed behind for an additional hour which included a golf cart guided tour by Joan Roberts. We went through her commercial plantings and row upon row of interesting seedlings. Joan's hybridizing goals include creating dependable rebloomers with excellent form in new colors and patterns. Ken and Joan were most gracious hosts and we enjoyed their garden immensely. ☙

Favorite Guest Irises

2001 AIS National Convention

President's Cup

(Awarded to the iris originating *within* host region with the largest number of votes)

ANVIL OF DARKNESS, Sterling Innerst, TB 1998, 51 votes

Runners-up:

BRAZENBERRY, Sterling Innerst, TB, 1999, 22 votes

CONTINUITY, Sterling Innerst, TB, 1994, 19 votes

GROB SWITCHER, Sterling Innerst, BB, 1995, 18 votes

LADY CLAIRE, Joan Roberts, TB, 2001, 17 votes

Franklin Cook Memorial Cup

(Awarded to the iris originating *outside* host region with the largest number of votes)

QUEEN'S CIRCLE, Fred Kerr, TB, 2000, 78 votes

Runners-up:

CHRISTIANA BAKER, Fred Kerr, BB, 1999, 15 votes

SOMEBODY LOVES ME, Robert Hollingworth, SIB, 1998, 13 votes

SUSPICION, Keith Keppel, TB, 1999, 9 votes

SUDDEN IMPACT, Rick Tasco, TB, 1997, 7 votes

Favorite Guest Irises

Following are the Favorite Guest Irises voted by conventioneers at the 2001 AIS National Convention in York, Pennsylvania

Name	Hybridizer	Year	Type	Votes
QUEEN'S CIRCLE	F. Kerr	2000	TB	124
ANVIL OF DARKNESS	S. Innerst	1998	TB	96
CHRISTIANA BAKER	F. Kerr	1999	BB	82
SOMEBODY LOVES ME	R. Hollingworth	1998	SIB	64
CONTINUITY	S. Innerst	1994	TB	38
MY GINNY	D. Spoon	2000	TB	36
DELIRIUM	M. Smith	2001	IB	35

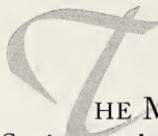
ACE	L. Miller	1999	MTB	33
IN YOUR DREAMS	L. Miller	2000	TB	33
STARRING	J. Ghio	2000	TB	31
RUFFLED GODDESS	R. Tasco	1993	TB	30
LADY CLAIRE	J. Roberts	2001	TB	27
MADAM PRESIDENT	H. Thurman	2001	MTB	26
SHIPS ARE SAILING	Schafer/Sacks	1998	SIB	26
RARE QUALITY	Schreiner	1999	TB	26
EXCLUSIVITY	S. Innerst	1999	TB	26
EROTIC TOUCH	S. Innerst	1998	TB	26

***Historical Irises in the
Nation's Capitol***

Joe and Donna Spears, Argyle, Texas, have shipped six varieties of historic irises to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. These are to be planted on the mall side of the American History Museum. The six are GERTRUDE, LORELEY, MME. CHEREAU, QUEEN OF MAY, ROSY WINGS and WABASH.

Memphis Beckons

Elke Longsworth, Tennessee



THE MEMPHIS AREA IRIS SOCIETY, WEST TENNESSEE IRIS Society and the Greater Region 7 are very excited about the up-coming Convention in Memphis. The dates are April 24-29, 2002

We have nine gardens on tour with approximately 3000 irises to view, with the Memphis Botanic Garden displaying the largest collection of cultivars. Formerly the Ketchum Iris Garden, it has been completely re-modeled with a reflecting pool in the middle and it is now the Tennessee Bicentennial Iris Garden.

The Marriott Hotel East will be our Headquarters and their rates will be \$89.00 per night. The Registration for the Convention will be \$190.00 if paid before March 15th, and \$210.00 thereafter. More details will be in the January Bulletin.

We will offer an Iris Show on Saturday afternoon and outside tours with dinner and special entertainment at Graceland – Elvis's Home in Memphis. Please see the January Bulletin and the website for more details later. 

Congratulations...

The Garden Writers Association of America has recently given that their prestigious 'Quill & Trowel' award to ***Bananas You Can Grow*** by Waddick and Stokes, as one of the top garden books of 2000. There will be an awards ceremony in Florida in November.

(This is our own Dr. Jim Waddick of Kansas City, Missouri, who is AIS chair for the Rare Iris Study Center.)

Never Say Never - Again

Terry Aitken, Washington State

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HE FOLLOWING WAS RECEIVED FROM SAM NORRIS,
OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY:

"You could well be correct about going back to the species in some cases, but I have found that giganticaerulea makes one of the best parents when used as either pod or pollen parent. Of course, the Louisiana iris are still relatively new, so none of them are too far removed from the species."

I have been watching one seed pod with an anxious eye. This is from using Siberian pollen on one of Christy Hensler's plants that has the characteristics of a Japanese iris. Even if a few seeds are produced, it is going to be a long wait to see any bloom.

Here is a question for you: Are there any criteria for saying that a particular cross is or is not possible? I have an idea that many of the crosses that are judged to be impossible would yield to a concerted attempt to make them. After all, it takes only one successful cross to prove it is possible."

The issue of fertility is a fickle one and I don't believe there is an answer. I have been chastised on several occasions by people who think I should indicate whether or not each new introduction is fertile. In many cases, I simply don't know. In some cases I can check back in my pedigree records to find a plant that has been successfully used as either a pod or pollen parent. However, that is only a partial answer. The larger question, especially when dealing with the mixed chromosome crosses of Medians, is "Fertile with what?" There are an infinite number of possible combinations.

In similar discussions with orchid breeders, I have been told that, in many cases, a first bloom plant will not be fertile, but over a timeframe of ten or fifteen years, some highly awarded plants have been known to become fertile. Both inherited and environmental factors come into play.

In tall bearded breeding, Joe Ghio's MYSTIQUE has been the backbone of our hybridizing adventure for the past twenty-five years.

We made hundreds of crosses with it, and very early on we realized that it was pollen fertile but pod sterile - almost! One year we did get one pod with one seed. Was it a case of a stray pollen grain being in the right place at the right time?

Environmental factors play havoc with hybridizers every year. Is the pollen too wet or the stigmatic lip too dry? Is it too hot, too cold or too humid? Physically, is the plant under stress to the point that it will attempt to reproduce itself before dying? Is the plant in its prime of life and eager to reproduce? I have failed to ask a plant lately!

In wide crosses, some very interesting work is under way. We have had a number of successful interspecies crosses between Japanese irises and *I. Pseudacorus*. Hybridizers in Japan have been collecting pollen from many different Japanese iris hybrids. The pollen is mixed in a blender and applied lavishly to the *pseudacorus*. If ANY one of the pollen grains happens to be compatible with the *pseudacorus*, their chances of getting seeds are greatly enhanced.

In a similar experiment using the same concept, Lee Walker in southern Oregon is blending Japanese iris pollen and attempting crosses with Spurias. At this point, he is watching some really strange seed pods! ☺

Reminder

The 1999 Check List has been printed and is available! This is the hard cover, ten-year compilation of registrations. Price is \$17.00 for U.S. and Canada; \$25.00 for International. To order, see the AIS Storefront.

Interspecies Crosses

Tony Huber, Quebec, Canada

[Editor's Note: The following article is a combination of two pieces of communication from Tony Huber. The first is a letter to Terry Aitken, written in response to Terry's inquiry regarding Tony's experience with crosses of *Iris ensata* X *Iris sibirica*; the second is an article written by Tony, sent as an enclosure with the letter.]



HAVE READ WITH INTEREST THE ARTICLES IN THE *AIS BULLETIN* regarding crosses of *Iris ensata* X *Iris sibirica*, by Christy Hensler ("Background," April, 2001), Sam Norris ("Chromosome Count," April, 2001), and Terry Aitken ("Never Say Never," July, 2001). I have been corresponding with Christy Hensler and I am growing a few of her F1 and F2 seedlings, but I have never done any crosses of *ensata* X *sibirica* or the reverse. However, I plan to attempt some of these crosses in the coming year.

As for Terry Aitken's title of "Never Say Never," I echo that sentiment! Be positive; yes, it can be done! For several years I have been corresponding with Christy Hensler; I was aware of her interspecies cross attempts and I was certain that she would have success. I suggested that she use the higher chromosome *sibirica* (28 chromosomes) as pod parent, but she had already completed the reverse crosses (with *ensata* — 24 chromosomes — as pod parent). The resulting seedlings were a pleasant surprise!

If Christy Hensler's seedlings are indeed *ensata* X *sibirica*, it may provide important clues about the origin of *Iris sibirica*. *I. sanguinea* is the ancestor of the series *Iris sibiricae* which includes both 28- and 40-chromosome Siberians. *I. sanguinea* was originally produced by a natural cross of *I. laevigata* (32 chromosomes) X *I. ensata* (24 chromosomes). All three still grow wild in Japan. The Sino-Siberian (40-chromosome) members of the family may have originated from a natural cross of 28-chromosome *sibirica* (which in this case provided 28 undivided chromosomes), pollinated by 24-chromosome *ensata*. In other words 28 undivided chromosomes from *sibirica*, plus 12 divided

chromosomes from *ensata*, would total 40 chromosomes, as found in the Sino-Siberians.

Christy Hensler is making the same cross with plants which are supplying reduced chromosomes in quantities 14 (from *sibirica*) and 12 (from *ensata*). Thus, her hybrids should have a chromosome count of 26. In F2 crosses among the seedlings, each parent would theoretically contribute 13 chromosomes; however, because of the odd number of chromosomes, the F2 generation will be sterile or only moderately fertile. F1 and F2 seedlings from interspecies crosses will bloom the second or third year, but they rarely reach maturity until their fourth to seventh year. [This observation is made from my experience with *versicolor* X *ensata* and *versicolor* X *pseudacorus* crosses. By the way, I also hope to work in the future with *Iris maachi*. What is *I. maachi*??? I think that it may actually be a "pseutata" (*pseudacorus* X *ensata*).]

In 2001, I had bloom on the F2 hybrids received from Christy Hensler. The flower's appearance is similar to *ensata* but with more yellow surrounding the golden-yellow signal; foliage and stem resemble *ensata*; pods are longer than *ensata*; seeds were few, somewhat round, and reminiscent of *sibirica* seeds. This variety of characteristics would seem to indicate that these plants are of interspecific origin.

What we need now is chromosome counts on Ms. Hensler's crosses — not just counts of the F1 group, but more importantly F2 and even F3 and F4...

In our work with *Iris versicolor*, we had all important seedlings analyzed, in order to know what we were working with and what to expect from the next generation. It is my sincere hope that Christy Hensler will find an institution or an individual with the time and equipment to do the much-needed chromosome analyses. 

Breeding for Reblooming Siberians

Terry Aitken, Washington State

ATTEMPTING TO WORK WITH SIBERIANS HAS BEEN A SPECIAL challenge. Their bloom season coincides with bearded irises, and the demands on our time simply don't allow for a focused Siberian breeding program. My usual procedure is to remove all seed pods from the field during Japanese iris bloom season, and then go to work on any reblooming Siberian irises during June and July. At this time even the ever-vigilant bumblebees have little choice but to make self crosses or crosses with other reblooming Siberians! I'll take what I can get.

At present, both diploid and tetraploid Siberians have shown some tendency for continuing bloom from May on through June, July and into August in our cool Northwest climate. (Hotter climates may not see this phenomenon.) Among the tetraploids, CORONATION ANTHEM appears to be the most determined, with HARPSWELL PRINCESS KAREN showing late to very late bloom. Regular diploid rebloom is all coming from the Schafer/Sacks breeding lines. We particularly appreciate DEVIL'S DREAM for its three months of bloom, as well as the repeat bloom on CARELESS SALLY, PLEASURES OF MAY and ROARING JELLY.

We have re-select seedlings from all of these plants. The next step is to cross breed these summer blooming Siberians to reinforce and extend the continued bloom characteristic.

Another group not heard from yet are the Sino-Siberians. We caught a second generation DOTTED LINE seedling trying to bloom in August. This plant will be watched for consistency in the years ahead. Meanwhile its self seeds will be harvested and grown on to see if this was a spontaneous phenomenon, or if there is extra vigor in that population.

This type of activity can be pursued by virtually any hybridizer who lives in a temperate climate suitable for Siberian irises. All we need to do is grow large enough populations so that quality re-selects can be discovered.



Soft Rot

Scourge of the South & a Blessing in Disguise

David Hull, North Carolina

A large, stylized, cursive letter 'W' is positioned at the top left of the text block.

ARM WINTERS, COOL WET SPRINGS AND BACTERIA CALLED *Erwinia Carotovora* cause problems for Bearded Iris growers in the south. I have been growing irises for most of the 18 years I have lived in Charlotte, North Carolina. My first 20 or so originated in my grandmother's garden in Connecticut and were passed to me by my father. One cool wet spring I lost 95% of my historic irises as a result of bacterial soft rot. Determined to solve the problem I set out to find a cure. This turned out not to be an easy task. I started at the beginning. In Dykes' book he talks about using a potassium permanganate tincture. Potassium permanganate is now on the FBI watch list as its two most common uses are as an accelerant in explosives and in processing cocaine. It is possible to get potassium permanganate. However, be careful how much nitrogen fertilizer you purchase at the same time or the FBI may start to ask your neighbors questions about YOU! Agrimycin was another attempt at solving this problem. Although it had some beneficial effects, it was not very effective. Bleach does no more than the potassium permanganate and bleach can poison the ground with the chlorine. Even better than bleach is a commercial product called Green Shield, a chlorine drench used by commercial people to keep greenhouses sterile. I have used Green Shield in place of bleach when digging iris.

When all of these failed to meet my expectations for eliminating the problem I started contacting research facilities, universities, and AIS members in other parts of the country for leads. I spoke to one gentleman in Alabama whose commercial iris farm was wiped out by botanical soft rot in a matter of two seasons. He told me about the Jacksonville, Mississippi, chapter of AIS that in one year, because of bacterial soft rot, basically turned into the Jacksonville Daylily Society. I talked to several people at the North Carolina State University about the problem and also discussed the possibility of funding research. In

passing, one of the researchers said that there is a product out that has been successful in fighting bacterial rot in poinsettia cuttings. The product was called Phyton27. I found Phyton27 at the commercial Greenhouse Supply Company in Charlotte. The product is a copper based systemic bactericide/fungicide that is primarily used by commercial poinsettia growers. I bought a bottle of the product, called their hot line and spoke to several people at the factory. Although it had not been tested on iris, it was in fact expected to do the job.

I followed the directions for foliar application. I read the precautions OSHA recommended for application of this spray. The neighbors got quite a laugh out of my outfit, commercial jumpsuit, tyvec hood, rubber gloves up to the elbow, respirator, protective glasses and a face shield – made me look like something out of the X-Files. I have since found out it is no more toxic than most chemicals. The first application produced a scorched look to the leaves, as if they had been sun burned. On conversation with the research team, I told them of the problem and they recommended I apply half strength solution and make two applications at least three days apart. This definitely reduced the problem and as the copper is cumulative in the plant, if you are overly concerned you could apply it three times with 1/3 strength or four times with 1/4 strength over a two week period. I am currently applying two doses at 1/2 strength in March. This gets the systemic fungicide into the plant before the rot becomes active. Because this is a copper based product it is absolutely necessary that you be very careful with it, as too much copper can poison the soil (or you) should you spill some large quantity in an area. These two applications of Phyton27 have reduced my losses due to soft rot by about 95%. I rarely lose an entire rhizome. I use this on other bacteria and virus prone problem plants such as hybrid *alstroemeria*, roses and orchids. I usually only give these plants one half-strength application per year, although they would benefit from two.

Having found an acceptable cure rate, I realize this problem to be a blessing. I had joined the Charlotte Iris Society at the invitation of Pat Rogers, a landscape design consultant and teacher whose course I had taken in "Low Maintenance Landscaping". She told me it was a good place to find unusual irises for the bog I was building in my yard. Upon joining CIS, I met Ruth Holbrook whose knowledge of bearded irises astonishes me, with her ability to tell the difference between two white irises with no discernible differences as being two different named varieties. Ruth had also developed the soft rot problem the same year I developed mine. Our collaboration on solving the soft rot problem and

subsequent years of gardening, trading plants, and field trips have elevated our friendship to more of a "kindred spirit" level. My enthusiasm for irises propelled me into membership in AIS and several much larger iris beds.

The first iris show I entered I had only planned on helping out. I did not know the names of the iris that I had from my grandmother. However, because of the season and the talk as we were setting up the night before, it was apparent even if my iris were not named it would be a benefit to have them to fill up a section of unnamed iris. I picked several blooms and brought them only to find out that they were some of the most common and most popular iris. Katharine Steele took me under her wing, showed me the ropes and shared with me her love for irises. B.J. and Francis Brown helped me by identifying some of the not so unusual iris. It turns out I had Stepping Out (Schreiner '64), Melodrama (Cook '56) and Laced Cotton (Schreiner '80). The Browns were special people to iris lovers and anyone who knew them. I enjoy sharing plants and gardening with Katherine and Richard Steele. Most of my species iris came from Barbara Alexander. Barbara is an invaluable resource for all kinds of plants and information. She has helped me in so many ways with plants and knowledge. As president of the CIS, Carrie Winter has been a receptive sounding board to some of my less than mainstream ideas and a real help with information on propagating woodies. Frieda Allen has shared so many plants with me I don't know how they all fit in her yard.

So what started out as an easy way to get a bunch of irises for my bog turned into a richly rewarding chapter in my life, not only for the kindled love for iris, but for a group of friends who have embraced me into the gardening community. Their warmth and affection can turn the coldest and darkest of winter days into the brightest and warmest of summer sun, with the mere sound of their voice or mention of their name. ~

Flight Lines

Edited by Clarence Mahan, Virginia

From Miniature Tall Bearded Robin Nr. 2:

W. Terry Varner, Marietta, OH: I have successfully used tobacco tea for pod weevils and borer. I also plant onions in the iris beds between the irises. I conclude after doing so for about five years that it helps control borer. Last year I had only one borer in the entire patch... I like Ken Fisher's two new introductions: THAT'S RED and SIREN.

Jim Loveland, Fenton, MO: This year was one I will remember for a long time to come. Started out, I attended the AIS Convention.... Met some old friends, and of course, made new ones as well. One I will remember for a long time to come was Lucille Pinkston, the hybridizer of OWYHEE DESERT. I met her prior to the welcome banquet, at which time she asked if I would like to ride the bus with her group from Utah. Of course, I accepted. For me, getting to know others is the main reason I love attending the AIS convention or any other convention for that matter.

Cindy and Stephanie Rust, Union, MO: The best MTB rebloomers we have are LADY EMMA (always in class here and always reblooms; pod fertile) and ABRIDGED VERSION.... We also have BLACK LADY, MERIT and a few others that might rebloom. MERIT rebloomed for a friend of ours ten miles away this past fall.... We are using a lot of the Craigs' things (some of them rebloom off and on for them and others), lots of different *aphyllas*, and as many summer rebloomers as we can find.

Ken Fisher, Bella Vista, AR: Last spring I harvested [pods from] 69 4n [tetraploids], 9 2n [diploid], and 71 2n-4n [diploid-tetraploids] crosses, which should produce around 700 seedlings. Few pods were filled out and most of those that were had weevil damage.

Mona French, Oklahoma City, OK: Concerning...pod weevils, we also have a lot of problems with these in Oklahoma. I don't have the time to spray with Garlic Barrier, but have had much better luck by making

Laurentian Sunset (T. Huber)

foto: R. Plank



Queen's Circle (F. Kerr)

sure to pull down the spathes after the pod is forming. I also have taken a long thin wire...poked it into the weevil hole and skewered a few in the process. The wire may have damaged a few seeds it came in contact with, but the weevil certainly stopped feasting.... One other trick that Paul Black taught me was to pick the "weeviled" pods as early as possible (while they were still very green), cut them open with an Exacto knife, and let the seeds dry out in little Dixie cup...shaking the cups every few days so that the seeds don't mold. This way I have caught quite a few weevils in munch-mode, but before they have had time to damage all the seeds in the pod.

Stephanie Markham, Norfolk, MA: I got a couple of really pretty things out of CONSUMMATION X STEFFIE—royal purple amoenas with beautifully shaped flowers and incredibly velvety, completely haftless royal purple falls with a white wire edge. (OK, I know it's funny of me to use STEFFIE in breeding, but I had to, just like Stephanie Rust has to! It's an obligation that comes with the name. Blame my mother, OK?) Another nice seedling, a velvety dark red-violet self out of CHERRY X CONSUMMATION caused a fair amount of garden comment this year. Pretty is as pretty does, and this one seems to "do" as a garden plant as well. Promising.

Quite accidentally, I got an MTB seedling with spoons or some such weirdness, but NOT out of plicata breeding. The cross was SARA'S LOVE X STEFFIE. The spoons were irregular—there were not necessarily three per flower, though they did appear on each flower—and the flowers were more or less amoena with white standards and falls colored like a paler, more washy version of STEFFIE. I'll be watching to see if the spoon things are still there this year....

Jason Leader, Glen Rock, PA: My favorites in the guest bed this year were ACE, BEN-A- FACTOR, CRAFTED, ASTRA LADY, ROYAL DEBUTANTE, THAT'S RED, STEFFIE, STIPPLED LADY, SOMEWHAT QUIRKY AND CHELSEA TURNER. It is difficult to declare my favorite guest MTB but if I would be pushed to the wall, I would have to say CRAFTED by Dunderman/Varner, CHELSEA TURNER, and THAT'S RED. Terry Varner's yellow seedling T93-6A1 is wonderful. The color is bright and doesn't fade. Charles Bunnell had a very nice seedling C39-7. It has lighter lavender standards with darker falls and a very clean band...on the fall rims, touched off with bright orange beards. Jim Loveland had a nice seedling 98-2, which has amber-tan standards and very dark (almost black) falls.

Dick Sparling, Pomfret Center, CT: The Median Odyssey was not a showcase for the MTBs. A little too early. One that did shine was MY SOUVENIR (Craig 98). I marked it 4-stars in two gardens. Stephanie Markham's 96-3A is a good lavender with good bud count.

The AIS convention was a showcase for the MTBs.... This is the second time Pennsylvania has done well by MTBs.... Betty Wyss' MONTY DUANE looked good, as did BUTTERFLY DANCE by the Willotts, BEN-A-FACTOR, and Jack Norrick's CHELSEA TURNER.

Jean Witt, Shoreline, WA: This week I have been wading through an interesting book, Verne Grant's Genetics of Flowering Plants (Columbia University Press, 1975), looking for anything that might be of use to us. The general impression I get is that there are more exceptions to Medelian rules than there are plants that conform. In MTBs, we have at least three types of non-conforming:

Diploid hybrids are non-Mendelian. The chromosomes of our parental species match up well enough that we have fertile hybrids—but they don't match completely, so we get irregularities of chromosome dispersal at cell division.

On top of that (or who knows, perhaps because of it) we have the HONORABILE effect. This may be a transposable element — a jumping gene — which can change location from one chromosome to another (or maybe a chromosome segment turns end for end). In one location it produces one effect; in another location it produces a different effect. This may be seen in CYBERNET, KAITLIN, JOSEPH'S COAT, etc.

After many generations of hybridization, colors that were once inherited for the flower as a whole "break up" so that the surface layers of the petal may be genetically a different color from the interior layers from which pollen and ovules are formed. This shows quite clearly in variegated leaves, but also in petals with rims and spots, etc., or just standards a different color from falls.

[Editor's Note: The following has been excerpted from a letter Jean Witt recently wrote to me and which she has kindly given me permission to share with you.]

...VIRGINIA MOORE (Shull, 1920) bloomed for me this year, and I found it intriguing. In fact, I'm surprised, as good as it is, that it was not better known when I started collecting diploids in the '50s. It had four buds in the terminal, four in one branch and three in the other. Perhaps it lacked distribution. It's a better flower than the much-touted

CORONATION of somewhat later date. The thing that fascinates me is that shows not the variegata coloring of HONORABILE, but the yellow self coloring of HONORABILE's sport SHERWIN-WRIGHT. True, it has a bit of purple dotting, but not much. A clump would make quite a garden show. Thanks again for sending it.

[Editor's Note: *VIRGINIA MOORE* was awarded an Honorable Mention the year AIS was founded but it was impossible to obtain for many years. A few years ago Marion Shull's granddaughter appeared at an iris sale in Washington, D.C. and offered to provide rhizomes of *VIRGINIA MOORE* to me, and I immediately drove to her home to get the plants. It is, as Jean Witt observed, a superb iris, and as she says, makes spectacular displays in the garden.]

From The Wild Ones (Region 4):

Doris Simpson, Baltimore, MD: Today I went to Carol Warner's with cookies for her guests on Thursday, Friday and Saturday when the AIS national convention will be touring her garden. I had not been out there this spring and I was, as usual, amazed at the beauty, taste, grooming and *je ne sais quoi* that Carol produces each year. I hope the guests have lots of time because there is so much to see.... Her *I. laevigata* COLCHESTERENSIS was blooming happily in her little pool—just what a water iris wants!—and there was so much bloom in spite of dry weather....

Elaine Hulbert, Floyd, VA: The nicest new thing that happened was the bloom on some very new clumps of *Iris koreana* brought be Darrell Probst from his next-to-last collecting trip. If you have looked at the photograph I'm enclosing, you may have thought you were seeing *Iris minutoaurea*; the coloring is the same, though the shape of the bloom and the plant habit are not. It seems to be very easy to grow. The *I. odaesanensis* stuck in near by is also flourishing, but there have been no bloom stalks. By the way, do any of you know of any successful *I. minutoaurea* cultivators? I have had no success in blooming or increasing it, for years now, after it seemed to be so amenable, at first. My feeling is that others have had the same experience; I would like to think somebody has solved its problems.

Clarence Mahan, McLean, VA: The first time I grew *Iris minutoaurea* I grew it in a bonsai container, and Suky watered it every day when she watered her bonsai collection. She treated it as just another bonsai. It

thrived, seeming to appreciate the good drainage and gritty soil. It increased so quickly that it had to be moved. Foliage was lush, but it did not bloom. I foolishly, in ignorance, did two things that proved fatal. I divided it in May, when I should never have attempted it after March. Secondly, I divided it into single rhizomes—I should have divided it into clumps because it does not like to be broken up into single pieces. Every rhizome—about fifty—died from my misguided effort.

The second time I grew *Iris minutoaurea* I grew it in a raised bed close to my compost bins. I mixed chicken grit and sand into the soil. I ignored it for two years and it increased into a nice size clump. One morning in late March, I took some household waste to the compost bin, and suddenly, as I turned to return to the house, I saw that the clump of *I. minutoaurea* was a mass of delicate yellow flowers. I called my wife to come at once, and we both thought it was an exquisite sight. The next year it much larger clump and it bloomed again. Unfortunately, I tried moving the entire clump to a new bed in September, and it slowly died in its new location—by November, it was dead. When I try it again, I will never move it at once. I will cut off a side clump in late February or early March, and plant it beside the bigger clump.

Ginny Spoon, Cross Junction, VA: Don and I have made new beds and planted the MDB collection from Dick Sparling and the MTB collection in alphabetical order.... I think we did lose *I. balkana*.

Libby Cross, Covington, VA: I am thankful that this robin has taught me the advantages of the letter-copy method [i.e. each writer must send a copy of his/her letter to the Robin Director]. The copy of the Robin Rules that goes with this robin goes with ALL the robins now...at least all those that I have anything to do with. In spite of all my efforts to keep up with what all the robins are doing, new ones keep cropping up, and old ones fall by the wayside without my knowledge.

Carol Warner, Upperco, MD: It has been an incredible bloom year for almost all the irises here at Draycot. I still have a few Japanese hanging on by a thread, and had enough to take a vase to our sale on July 14th and again on July 21st.

The Siberians were really strutting their stuff for the convention and many continued to bloom for quite a while. I was especially impressed with the long bloom season on AT THE BALLET, SHIPS ARE SAILING and my seedling Number 5.

[Editor's Note: I was also impressed with several of Carol's seedlings, including Number 5, and I told her so.]



About Immortality

Rosalie Yerkes Fizge, Maryland

N

O, NOT THE NAME OF A NEW IRIS, NOR EVEN A REFERENCE to my beloved Rebloomers. The type of Immortality I have in mind is a legacy, a lasting memorial, a gift that keeps on giving, a tribute to one's love of irises and of AIS. Immortality may come to mind when we attend a school reunion. It was certainly in MY thoughts when I went to my 70th college reunion. Only seven of the ninety-three alumnae still receiving mail were able to attend.

All winter I had been receiving "junk" mail asking that this organization and that be remembered in my will! I was not receptive, since there are children, grandchildren, and the greatgrands who have priorities for my pittance.

However, after Reunion, I realized that, as a nonagenarian, it was imperative to face facts. There are those who are reluctant to think far in the future but — and this is not just for the senior citizens! — everyone needs a will. And a revocable living trust can also be considered. Think about what gives you pleasure outside your family and make a place for that cause in your will or trust.

For many of us, our special love is our garden, especially the Iris. (I tell my children, if they think I'm dying, to put me out in the garden — it always revives my soul!) So how much more personal it is to remember AIS in our wills rather than some group with whom we have no personal association.

The AIS Board asked me to write about the subject of legacy donations to AIS. Your donations to AIS — now or later — can be designated for the general fund or for a special purpose, e.g. education, research, youth activities, the library. Years from now, when your rhizomes have been divided dozens of times, and when you are no longer on this earth, your donation will be strengthening the future of AIS. The benefits of your legacy donation will be far-reaching — that's an immortality that everyone can achieve. 

Golembieski Garden



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Mail to: Jeanne Clay Plank, Secretary of Donations; 8426
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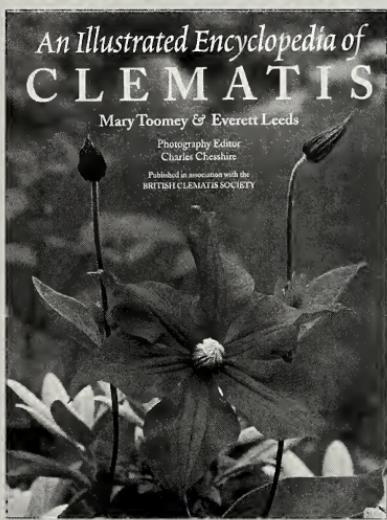
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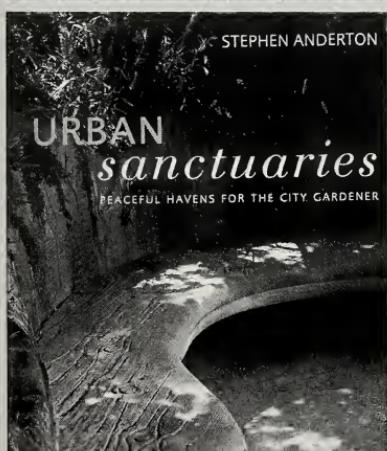
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The outside back cover of the Bulletin is restricted to promotion of irises and prominent irisarians.

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Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2½ inch wide.

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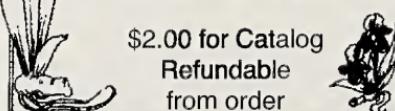
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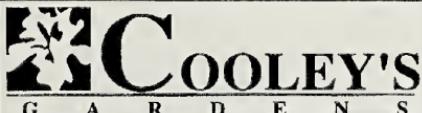
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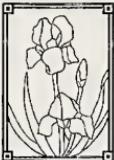
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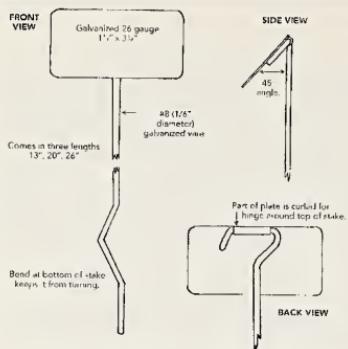
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